

- *Early Deadline: Mon., Dec. 21st, At Noon...*
- *AHS Winter Sports Previews: See "Sports"...*



AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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"Your Hometown Newspaper"

December 17, 1998

School Department Scrutinizes 1st Round Of MCAS Test Results

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Less than a week after receiving the results of the first round of testing mandated by the Education Reform Act of 1993, school officials held an informational meeting for parents at the Middle School last Thursday night to explain how the district's fourth, eighth, and 10th graders fared, as well as discuss some of the ways school administrators will use the results of the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) to help students prepare for the annual tests.

School Superintendent Frank Ameruso said, "The numbers show we are on the right track. The areas of science and technology, where we have had our curriculum aligned with the state frameworks for the longest, we had our highest scores. In English, where we've had our curriculum in place the second longest, we had the

second highest scores. And in math, where we've had our curriculum in place since September, we had our lowest scores."

Ameruso said the test is based on the highest set of learning standards in the country for what students should know and be able to do by the end of grades four, eight, and 10.

Last May, students were tested in English language arts, mathematics, and science & technology. When the test is administered for the second time in the spring, history and social sciences will be added to the eighth and 10th grade test subjects, and there will be a tryout in history and social science for the fourth grade. Eventually, students will also be tested in world languages.

Assistant Superintendent Mary Czajkowski stressed, "This is a criterion referenced test,

meaning it is based on a set of learning standards vs. a norm referenced test, which is a national test comparing students to other students. MCAS is based on the learning standards in the curriculum frameworks."

Ensure Accountability

Ms. Czajkowski said the test results ensure accountability from the school district, the teachers, and the students themselves. With the scores being reported for the district, for each school, and for each individual student in a detailed set of subscores measuring specific topics and skills in the subject areas, school administrators will have a good idea of where they need to work on the curriculum, Ms. Czajkowski said.

SEE MCAS - Page 6...

'Tis The Season For "Bazaars"...



TO HELP "RING IN" THE HOLIDAYS, a wide array of yuletide bazaars have been held in Agawam this season. IN LEFT PHOTO: Angelo and Chris Pumbo of the ASGA (Agawam Senior Games Athletes) at the Senior Center. IN CENTER PHOTO: Linda Scheve with Santa Claus at the First Baptist Church. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Brianna (age 4½) and Shelly Goncalves with Beanie Babies galore at Agawam Congregational Church. (See related story and additional photos in "Social.") Advertiser News photos

by Jack Devine.

Regarding Proposed Ordinance Regulating Their Businesses...

Used Car Dealers Meet With Town Council Sub-Committees & Mayor To Iron Out Differences

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

After six months of scrutiny by Town Council sub-committees, two public hearings at Town Council meetings, and three joint meetings of the council's committee on rules, ordinances, and licensing, little progress was made in reaching a consensus between used car dealers and the town at Tuesday evening's third and final joint meeting of the council committees with the dealers, the Mayor, and the town solicitor.

The meeting was called after the dealers objected to the changes suggested by Mayor Christopher C. Johnson, Planning Director Deborah S. Dachos, and Building Inspector Dominic Urbinati in the fifth version of the used car ordinance under consideration by the council (at last week's meeting).

At times, Tuesday night's meeting resembled little else than a "does too, does not" argument as the Mayor and the used car dealers both quoted the same section of the zoning code to support their positions.

While the dealers raised several peripheral issues, the main sticking points were the requirement for site plan review by the Planning Board for dealers wishing to increase the number of cars for sale allowed by their yearly licenses as issued by the town council, and the removal of a "grandfathering" clause that would have permitted dealers to operate under the rules in place at the time their license was issued. The intent was to allow dealers to operate under the 1987 ordinance if they did not make any changes on their lots.

Although technically legal, the grandfathering language would not have done what the council intended because the licenses are issued each year and would therefore be subject to the rules in place at the present time, Johnson said.

Johnson said language was added to the or-

dinance to insure that dealers who are not interested in making changes to their lots will not need to undergo site plan review.

However, dealers who want to increase the number of cars allowed for sale by their licenses will be reducing the number of customer parking spaces, thereby triggering site plan review.

Disagreeing With Mayor's Interpretation Of Code

Speaking on behalf of six of the 34 used car license holders, Daniel Rising said he did not agree with the Mayor's interpretation of the zoning code and that it would be unfair to require the dealers to spend an estimated \$1,500 for a certified site plan.

"The requirement for a site plan is for new construction on a new site or for renovations. But now you want us to spend serious money for upgrading our businesses. This (site plan review) doesn't apply unless there is a change of use on the property and increasing the number of cars is not a change of use. I don't believe the ordinance will stand up in court," Rising said.

Johnson said the zoning code does not require a certified site plan and that the Planning Board has the discretion of waiving the requirement for a site plan prepared by an engineer, an architect, or a landscape architect (if a plan of sufficient detail and accuracy is submitted).

Ordinance committee Chairman (Councilor) Robert Magovern agreed that the dealers should be able to present an acceptable, accurate plan without having to go to the expense of a certified site plan.

Explaining the genesis of the new used car ordinance, Johnson said a surprise inspection of used car lots by the building inspector in March found 11 dealers had more cars on their lots than allowed by their licenses. Four weeks later during

an inspection that had been announced at a town council meeting, four dealers were found still to be in violation of their licenses.

During discussions with the licensing committee, several dealers indicated they wanted to reduce the amount of square footage required for each car and increase the number of cars allowed for sale on their lots.

"Version five of this ordinance is much different from version one," Johnson said. "Over many months of discussion, many of the things we thought were important have been taken out of the ordinance and we haven't tried to put them back. We have been willing to compromise."

Johnson said the town is trying to take care of the needs of the community to regulate the car lots without putting an undue burden on the dealers.

Johnson Criticizes Council & Licensing Comm.

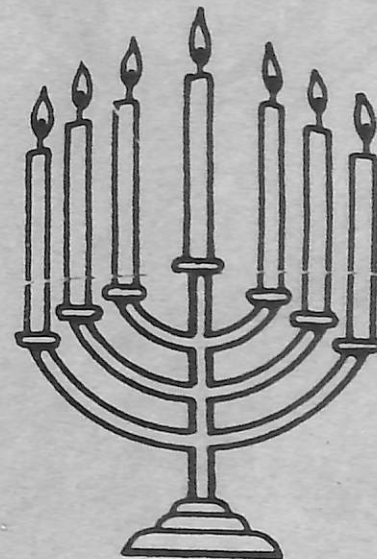
Johnson criticized the council and the licensing committee for not taking action against dealers who have been repeatedly in violation of their licenses.

"We found 11 dealers in violation and the council did nothing. We went back out and found four still in violation and the council still did nothing. Only once in 10 years has the council taken action and that was to revoke a license for egregious violations," Johnson said.

Licensing Chairman (Councilor) George Bitzas defended his committee's record. "After a strong warning, the four dealers did comply with their licenses and we told them next time they would be fined," Bitzas said.

Councilor Edward A. Caba, a licensing committee member, said, "I take issue with the idea that the committee is not doing anything about complaints. We work with the dealer on every complaint we get."

Because of Christmas, the deadline for our next issue is Monday, December 21st, at 12:00 noon ... ADVERTISER NEWS!!!



From all of us at the Law Offices of
Attorney Scott M. Hibbert, we wish you a safe and
happy holiday season.

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Beware Of Scam Regarding ADT Security Services, Inc.

To The Editor:

A short time ago, we were scammed by a person representing himself as a salesperson for ADT Security Services, Inc.

A woman representing herself as a secretary for ADT initially called our house to offer us a discounted price for a "new installation," as long as we were willing to allow the company to place an ADT sign in front of our house for a period of time.

After this initial contact, she told me she would connect me with her boss, who wished to speak to me. He asked if the initial contact had been courteous and polite, because this was a major concern to him as a supervisor.

Normally, we would not even consider such a deal over the phone. But my wife and I had been thinking of having a security system installed in our home, so we agreed to have a representative call at the house and talk to us about the installation of a system.

When the gentleman arrived, he initially apologized for being so new on the job. In fact, he told us we were his first customer and suggested he would have to refer to his "script" from time to time if that was all right with us.

He seemed genuinely nervous about the whole session and apologized for being so new on the job. As former teachers, both my wife and I felt sympathetic for him and even suggested ways to help him improve his presentation in the future.

His briefcase was very disorganized and he had trouble finding the correct papers at various times. All of the papers he had us sign were official looking and had the ADT logo prominently displayed on them. He had us sign all the papers and gave us a copy of each one.

It was only after he left that we noticed that his signature did not appear on any of the copies he left with us. Even after we noticed that his name was missing from all the papers, we assumed that it was merely an oversight on his part because he was so nervous.

When the appointed time came to have the system installed and no one arrived, we called the telephone numbers listed in the phone book for ADT and were told that they didn't have any information about an installation at our home and couldn't tell us who the person might be.

I am writing to warn others of this scam.

The description of the person who came to our house on December 1, 1998 is as follows:

* Black male - 30 to 35 years of age. Good-looking.

* Height - 6'1".

* Weight - 225 to 230 pounds.

* Husky body, broad shoulders.

* Short-cropped black hair.

* Small mustache.

* English was poor - he had difficulty pronouncing some words basic to the terms of home security. We assumed this was caused by his nervousness, as we were supposedly his first customers.

* No accent, very personable.

* He wore tan Dockers-type trousers, a white shirt and tie, and a brown blazer under a tan trenchcoat.

* He drove a white, small car similar to a Camry in style, probably a 1994-96 model.

Eugene M. Arsenault
Agawam

Melconian Addresses Concerns Of Drug Coverage For Seniors

To The Editor:

Over the last several weeks, I have received a number of letters from citizens who will suffer financial hardship due to recent reductions in HMO's drug coverage for senior citizens.

I am aware of the difficulties that this decision has caused. I share the concerns of seniors across the state as they struggle to find ways to afford necessary medicine.

The Commonwealth attempted to deal with the escalating costs of senior drug benefits in 1994 when it passed the Medigap Act and became the only state to mandate unlimited drug coverage for senior citizens. Unfortunately, in late October, a federal district court ruled that this statute conflicted with a provision of the federal Balanced Budget Act forbidding states from putting restric-

tions on how insurers provide drug benefits. Currently, HMO drug benefits range from the unlimited coverage still offered by some Blue Cross programs, to \$800 annually from Harvard Pilgrim and \$500 annually from Tufts.

I am co-sponsoring a bill for the 1999 legislative session that would extend the reach of the Senior Pharmacy Program. The bill would provide an additional \$1,500 worth of benefits to any individual who is Medicare eligible and whose income is less than 200 percent of the federal poverty level or \$16,104 for one person/\$21,708 for a couple.

This benefit would be on top of any other drug benefit program. Further, this bill would set up a task force to address the issue of Catastrophic Drug Costs and develop a program to assist individuals whose drug costs can be as high as \$8,000 annually. I will also continue to solicit advice and feedback from across Western Massachusetts and the state in an attempt to craft the best possible solution to this problem.

My colleagues in the Senate and I will work to pass legislation that helps seniors to meet the challenge of paying for their prescription drug costs. Thanks to all my constituents who have written to alert me to their depth of feeling about this problem.

Sincerely,

Linda J. Melconian
Ass't. Majority Leader
Massachusetts Senate

Family Of Robert A. Messier Thanks EMT's And Neighbors

To The Editor:

We would like to thank the following Agawam Fire Department EMT's — Frank Cavallo, Dave Welles, and Mike Pietroniro — for their quick response to aid our father on Monday, November 30th.

Sadly, our father didn't survive the cardiac arrest and we were later told that he died almost instantly, but the EMT's never gave up on him even after arriving at the hospital.

We would also like to thank neighbors Fred Hoekstra and Jim Hatin. Fred was talking to Dad when he collapsed and immediately called 911, then performed CPR until the EMT's arrived. Jim,

FireWise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano

Guidelines On Preventing Electrical Fires

We rely on electricity to do so many things in our daily lives, from that first cup of coffee in the morning to the nightly news before we go to bed, and countless activities in-between.

To keep you and your family safe from electrical fires, the Agawam Fire Department encourages you to use the following guidelines:

* When you shop for appliances or tools, look for the mark of a recognized testing laboratory (i.e., Underwriters Laboratories [UL] or Factory Mutual [FM]) on the box of appliance itself.

* If an appliance is hot to the touch, sparks, or does not operate properly, unplug it immediately and have it repaired or replaced.

* Portable appliances should only be plugged in when you intend to use them. Otherwise, keep them unplugged.

* On appliances with removable power cords, always unplug at the source of power first.

* Be on the lookout for damaged or frayed cords and wires, and replace when necessary. Take care not to kink, twist, or cut any cord.

* If an appliance has a three-prong plug, do not attempt to use it in a two-slot electrical outlet by cutting off the third prong or bending it out of the

way.

* Keep appliances clean and lubricated according to the manufacturer's instructions.

* Minimize the use of extension cords. They are designed for temporary use only and should be the right capacity for the tools or appliances on which they are used.

* If you are experiencing problems with blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers, have a qualified electrician check your electrical system.

If you have an electrical fire, remember you shouldn't use water to extinguish it. You could receive a severe shock.

If you know the fire's source is electrical, turn the power off or pull the plug. If the fire is small, put it out, but be prepared to evacuate the area and call the fire department at 911. If you can't turn the power off, a multi-purpose (ABC), dry chemical extinguisher can be used.

As long as it's used safely, electricity can greatly improve the quality of life. For additional information, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662.



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S.A.L.T. Council Taking A Bite Out Of Crime

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

The four senior housing complexes recently became the latest areas of town to be designated as Crime Watch neighborhoods.

Working with the Police Department, the local Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (S.A.L.T.) Council sponsored a series of Crime Watch meetings at Country View, Colonial Haven, Meadowbrook Manor, and Danahy this fall to enlist the support of the residents in establishing closer ties with each other and with the police in working together for a safer community.

Although attendance at the meetings was low and one complex had little interest in joining the Crime Watch effort, town officials were encouraged by what they learned from the sessions, and the elderly who did attend received a refresher course in crime prevention strategies from APD Safety Office (Sergeant) Steven Draghetti.

The hour-long sessions covered topics ranging from being aware of how to recognize suspicious activity to personal safety both at home and in public.

S.A.L.T. Council President Oliver Muldrew said, "We took it as a good sign that people had no major issues with crime in their neighborhoods. We wanted to feel out the residents of senior housing to see if there were any problems and, on the whole, they didn't have any real problems. Most of the things they talked about were health issues."

Among the programs currently running under the auspices of the S.A.L.T. Council are the automated telephone wellness check for seniors and the disabled, *Are U OK?*; the *File of Life* refrigerator magnets for recording personal medical history and medications to be used in the event of a medical emergency; a drive to encourage elderly and the disabled to call the police station to have pertinent health information added to the enhanced 911 system; and the Citizen Police Academy.

Muldrew said the "File of Life" has been distributed free of charge through the Agawam Senior Center and will soon be available for discharge patients at Heritage Hall.

S.A.L.T.'s Next Priority...

"Our next priority is to have a supply of the files for Quail Run, but we'll need a second round of fundraising in order to purchase them," Muldrew said. "Our biggest source of funding has been the police chief going to civic organizations for donations."



IN LEFT PHOTO: Officer Richard Niles and S.A.L.T. Council President Oliver Muldrew talking about safety at Danahy. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Rev. Curt Fuller, Jessie Fuller, Sergeant Steven Draghetti, Gail Freeman, Oliver Muldrew, and Lisa A. Riley with a "Crime Watch" sign. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Besides keeping current programs in place, the council is working on several initiatives, including some issues that fall under the umbrella of the Hampden County Triad linking local councils across the country with regional law enforcement efforts.

"We're looking into a mandate for bank tellers to report suspected bank fraud involving senior citizens," Muldrew said. "Some banks do train their tellers to report any suspicious transaction involving a large amount of cash or someone who is acting nervous, especially if it involves a senior. We'd like to see all bank tellers have that

training."

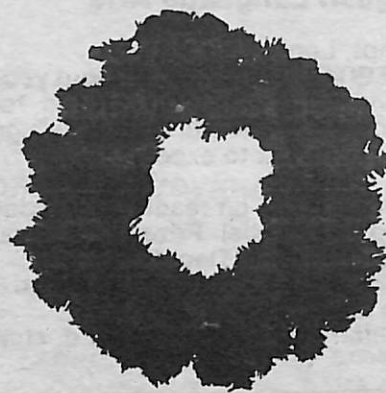
The S.A.L.T. Council is also checking into fire drills and evacuation plans for senior housing residents, as well as the types of emergency plans the town has in place to deal with the effect on senior housing residents if a major winter storm were to shut off power for a lengthy period of time.

The S.A.L.T. Council meets on the second Wednesday of every month (except July and August) at 10:00 a.m. at the Senior Center. The meetings are open to the public.

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MCAS - from Page 1...

"The tests themselves are being tested and the results are being used as a baseline for improvement," Ms. Czajkowski said. "The School Committee has been very supportive in providing us with the textbooks, curriculum materials, and technology to align with the new learning standards."

School Committee Vice-Chairwoman Linda Galarneau said the MCAS results give the schools invaluable information that will allow teachers to tailor their teaching style to each individual student.

"The teachers will be able to evaluate each student's strengths and weakness in the subjects tested," Mrs. Galarneau said. "For the first time, we have something tangible we can measure."

Committeewoman Susan Pettazzoni said test results will be used to put more emphasis on the way the curriculum is taught.

"The teachers will be teaching the same curriculum, but teaching it differently depending on the 'client,'" Mrs. Pettazzoni said.

Ms. Czajkowski said school administrators, academic coordinators, elementary specialists, and liaison teachers have begun meeting to analyze the test results and every teacher has already participated in faculty discussions with

administrators on the MCAS results.

"This is a marathon, not a sprint," Ms. Czajkowski said. "We're working very hard to improve our curriculum and continue with long-term professional development."

High School Principal Joseph Zabielski said the teachers at the High School will be using the language and logic of the test in making up their own tests so that the students will be used to dealing with those types of questions. A similar strategy may have helped at Robinson Park School where Principal William Sapelli obtained a grant for study materials for the teachers and then formed study groups to help teachers prepare their students for the new learning standards.

Robinson Park students consistently achieved the highest test results of the four elementary schools in all three subject areas.

In Agawam, fourth graders were on a par with the statewide results in English, with 18 percent of students falling in the top two levels of proficient and advanced. Fewer students scored in the failing range than the state average, and 75 percent fell into the needs improvement category.

Fourth graders were below the state average (67 percent) in math, with 75 percent failing or needing improvement and 25 percent rated proficient or advanced as compared to 34 percent statewide. In science & technology, scorers were well above the state average (48 percent) with 57 percent of students in the top two levels. Statewide, 52 percent of fourth graders were failing or needing improvement; in Agawam, the score was 43 percent in the lower levels.

Results for the eighth graders in English Language Arts were above the state average (57 percent), with 61 percent of the students scoring in the proficient or advanced range. Statewide, 45 percent of eighth graders scored as failing or needs improvement; in Agawam, the score was 38 percent. Math scores were well below the state average (31 percent), with 23 percent scoring in the top two levels; 77 percent were failing or need improvement compared to a state average of 66 percent. In science & technology, Agawam students tied with their peers across the state, scoring 28 percent in the advanced or proficient rating and 72 percent in the failing or needs improvement range.

Agawam 10th graders scored 10 percentage points higher than the state average (38 percent) in English Language Arts with 48 percent in the proficient or advanced range. In Agawam, 52 percent scored in the two lower categories; statewide, the score was 62 percent of students failing or needs improvement.

In math, Agawam students fell below the state average (24 percent), with 17 percent of students in the proficient or advanced range and 82 percent failing or needs improvement.

In science & technology, Agawam had 28 percent of students in the proficient or advanced range. The state average was 22 percent. While 78 percent of students across the state scored failing or needs improvement, in Agawam, the score was 72 percent.

By the year 2001, 10th graders must pass MCAS testing in order to receive a high school diploma.

Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System MCAS Sample Questions Science & Technology

Grade 4 - Open Response

The water in a pond is part of the water cycle.
a. Draw a diagram of the water cycle.
b. Label each part of the water cycle.
c. Explain what happens during EACH part of the water cycle.

Grade 8

Lemon juice turns litmus paper red, is corrosive, and tastes sour. Lemon juice is classified as

a. an acid; b. a base; c. an element; d. more information is needed to classify lemon juice.
Answer: a.

Grade 10

Recently scientists have discovered very similar skeletons of three dinosaurs on three different continents.

Gigantosaurus was found in South America.

Carcharodontosaurus was found in Africa.

Acroecanthosaurus was found in North America.

Explain the evolutionary and geological conditions that account for the similarities in their skeletons.

Grade 10

Genes are the basic unit of heredity. Genetic information is encoded in a linear sequence of

a. amino acids; b. fatty acids; c. nucleic acids; d. carbohydrates.
Answer: c.

Mathematics

Grade 4

Sean gets up at 7:15 A.M. It takes him 20 minutes to wash and dress. 15 minutes to eat breakfast. 5 minutes to brush his teeth. 5 minutes to gather school books. 5 minutes to walk to the bus stop. If he did all these things, what is the EARLIEST time Sean could arrive at the bus stop?

a. 7:55 A.M.; b. 8:00 A.M.; c. 8:05 A.M.; d. 8:15 A.M.

Answer: c.

English Language Arts

Grade 4

Writing Prompt, Long Composition
Writer a LETTER to a third grader about your experiences in the fourth grade. Describe fourth grade so that someone who will be in fourth grade next year will know what to expect.

Grade 10

The question is based on reading the Address upon Receiving the Nobel Prize for Literature given by William Faulkner, Dec. 10, 1950.

The phrase, "the last ding-dong doom has clanged," is an example of

a. irony; b. alliteration; c. hyperbole; d. simile.
Answer: b.

Agawam's MCAS Scores Compared To State Average

English Language Arts

Grade 4	7%	75%	17%	1%
State	15%	66%	19%	1%
Grade 8	5%	33%	60%	1%
State	14%	31%	52%	3%
Grade 10	18%	34%	47%	1%
State	28%	34%	33%	5%
	F	NI	P	Adv.

Mathematics

Grade 4	18%	57%	20%	5%
State	23%	44%	23%	11%
Grade 8	44%	33%	20%	3%
State	42%	26%	23%	8%
Grade 10	53%	29%	13%	4%
State	52%	24%	17%	7%
	F	NI	P	Adv.

Science & Technology

Grade 4	6%	37%	52%	5%
State	12%	40%	42%	6%
Grade 8	30%	42%	27%	1%
State	41%	31%	26%	2%
Grade 10	21%	51%	27%	0%
State	36%	42%	21%	1%
	F	NI	P	Adv.

* Failing Needs Improvement Proficient Advanced

MCAS Scores: Individual Elementary Schools Compared To State Average

English Language Arts

Phelps	9%	75%	16%	0%
Granger	3%	77%	18%	1%
Clark	13%	81%	6%	0%
Robinson	5%	68%	25%	1%
State	15%	66%	19%	1%
	F	NI	P	Adv.

Mathematics

Phelps	28%	60%	10%	1%
Granger	18%	68%	13%	1%
Clark	17%	56%	22%	5%
Robinson	12%	44%	33%	11%
State	23%	44%	23%	11%
	F	NI	P	Adv.

Science & Technology

Phelps	7%	40%	46%	6%
Granger	5%	44%	49%	2%
Clark	9%	33%	56%	2%
Robinson	3%	32%	55%	10%
State	12%	40%	42%	6%
	F	NI	P	Adv.

* Failing Needs Improvement Proficient Advanced

* * *

Because of Christmas, the deadline for our next issue is Monday, December 21st, at 12:00 noon.

* * *

— ADVERTISER NEWS —

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Veterans' Corner...

Recalling Pearl Harbor & America Entering WWII

by Ruth C. Bitzas

Veterans' Agent — 786-0400, Ext. 236/237

On Monday, December 7th, we paused to recall that infamous day that the Japanese began their surprise attack on Pearl Harbor. One of my earliest memories is that of my parents listening to the radio as the announcement was made of the extreme damage inflicted at Pearl.

I remember us kids being shushed so that they wouldn't miss any of the newscast. Of course, I didn't understand what was going on, but I knew it was enough to upset our home. My Uncle Jim and my father immediately went down to sign up for military service. Uncle Jim was accepted and was ultimately wounded while serving in the Battle of Normandy Beach.

My father had earlier been in an accident and had torn cartilage in his knee and wasn't accepted, and I remember his disappointment and anger at being rejected. I heard them talking about the long lines of young men and fathers volunteering to serve.

I remember in 1991 how we had the community of Agawam designated by the federal government as a "World War II Commemorative Community." We then obtained the new Pearl Harbor medals and contacted those Agawam veterans who served during the attack.

The Agawam Veterans' Council and Committee held a dinner at the Polish American Club in Feeding Hills, and the medals were presented to each veteran in honor of their service. Many programs were held over that five-year period to ensure our honor and pride of World War II veterans; because of their tenacity and courage, we maintained our freedom.

Here we are in 1998, and the Department of Veterans' Affairs has now implemented their new VISN program of medical health care delivery for veterans. Services to veterans no longer include long-term care for the aging World War II veterans now, when they need it most.

Amazing, isn't it? I remember attending meetings while the VA was still in the planning stages of the new VISN program, and asking about the long-term care for aging veterans and their skirting around the issue.

The Director of the VISN program was a guest speaker at one of the State Veterans' Agents conferences a year or two ago. I stood up again and inquired about long-term care for our war veterans. The response was that the VA was doing a study on the issue.

I asked about the study they had done about eight years ago on "the needs of the aging veteran," which I had a copy of and read. I said, "You have already done one study and now you're doing a second. If you wait another 10 or 15 years, you won't need to do anything, will you?"

In this week's issue of *The Stars and Stripes*, I read that Senator Arlen Specter (R-PA) has pledged to push for increased funding for veterans' long-term medical care as the ranks of aging veterans are expected to rise rapidly in the next decade.

Senator Specter chairs the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. He has been concerned by publicity over the Coatesville, Pennsylvania VA Medical Center's having adopted a policy of discharging late-stage Alzheimer's patients into private nursing homes.

Under the new policy, the expense of caring for the veterans was borne largely by their families. That decision was later reversed. Senator Specter was later quoted as saying the funding shortcomings "go far beyond Coatesville, and generally, to across the nation."

Your letter to Senator Specter could help all veterans, especially World War II vets who at present need it most. Send your letter to:

Senator Arlen Specter, Chairman
Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee
711 Hart Street
Washington, C.D. 20510

The following is a list of Agawam Vietnam veterans whose last names begin with the letter "B." Since their Home of Record for active military service is listed as Agawam and they

served during a wartime period and are honorably discharged, they meet the eligibility guidelines.

AGAWAM VIETNAM VETERANS - "B"

Alexander B. Baker, Jr., Charles R. Baker, Kenneth G. Balboni, Raymond L. Balboni, Emile J. Barbero, David J. Barnard, Robert N. Barnes, Thomas P. Bartolucci, Kenneth J. Bartschi, Daniel J. Barufaldi, William W. Baumann, Gary P. Begley, William H. Beigert.

Montague K. Belden, Francis J. Belisle, Jr., James P. Belisle, Ronald T. Belovitz, Paul P. Benoit, Richard E. Benoit, Vivian C. Benoit, John H. Benson, Wayne J. Berger, Gary C. Bertera, Robert F. Berthiaume, Robert P. Bertrand, Thomas N. Besaw, Dale R. Bewes.

Philip C. Bilodeau, John J. Bitgood, John M. Biuso, Lionel W. Blanchard, James O. Black.

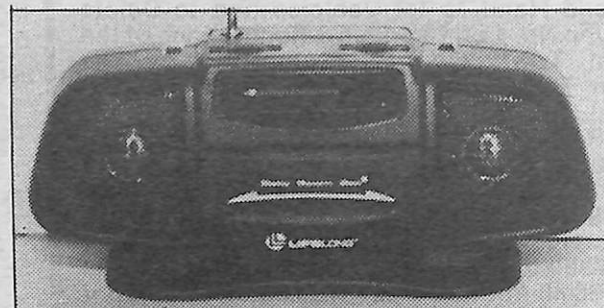
Phillip J. Blaisdell, Jr., Freda M. Bleek, William J. Blew, Douglas W. Bodman, David F. Boissonneault, Henry J. Boisvert, Jr., Lee F. Bolger.

Richard B. Bonomi, Richard E. Booth, Richard E. Botelho, Linda M. Boughton, Kenneth E. Bowden, Robert A. Bradbury, Daniel J. Breton, Richard E. Bradway, Ralph H. Bragg, William S. Brezinski, Eugene P. Briere, Robert A. Briggs, Donald W. Brooks, James G. Brown, Roger N. Brown.

Robert J. Bruce, David G. Bruneau, Paula M. Bryant, Wallace J. Bubien, Donald L. Buck, Linda J. Buder, Willie N. Bullock, Jr., Frank A. Buoniconti, Jr., Jeffrey K. Burton, Walter A. Bush, Jon M. Bushey, Chester R. Bushey, Peter F. Bushey, Gordon H. Butman, Jr., Henry V. Bye, Richard L. Byoreck.

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Baby Boom Box AM/FM Radio

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This holiday season, we'd like to say "Thanks" for your business by offering this Baby Boom Box free with any purchase over \$25.00. At 7 1/4" wide by 3 1/4" high, this miniature AM/FM radio valued at \$9.99 is designed like a boom box and perfect for sitting on your desk — or taking anywhere you want to go. It's ultra compact and ultra portable, and it runs on four AA batteries (not included).



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Ruth C. Bitzas'
"Veterans' Corner"
is a regular feature
of the AGAWAM
ADVERTISER NEWS.

Ag. Town Council's Reg. Meeting Agenda For Mon., Dec. 21st

1. Citizen's Speak Time
2. Roll Call
3. Moment of Silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
4. Minutes - Regular Council Meeting of 12/7/98
5. Declaration from Council President
6. **Presentation of Petitions, Memorials, & Remonstrances**
 - (a) **Resolutions**
 1. TR-98-37-A Resolution to Amend Regulation No. 2 of the Agawam Town Council Rules and Regulations Regarding the St. Accept. Procedure (Sponsored by the St. Accept. Comm.).
7. **Report of Council Committees**
 - None.
8. **Elections**
 - None.
9. **Public Hearings**
 - None.
10. **Old Business**
 - (a)
 1. TOR-98-5-An Ordinance to Amend Art. II of Ch. 114 of the Code of the Town of Agawam Entitled Second Hand Motor Vehicles and to Delete Regulation No. 1 of the Rules & Regulations of the Agawam Town Council (Submitted by the Agawam Rules Comm)(Tabled on 12/7/98)(2nd Reading).
 2. TOR-98-8-An Ordinance to Amend the Street Acceptance Portion of the Code of the Town of Agawam (Sponsored by St. Accep. Comm).
 3. TO-98-40-Approval of Class II Dealer Licenses No. 55, No. 58, No. 60, and No. 77 (Coun. Bitzas)(Tabled on 12/7/98).
 4. TO-98-43-Petition to erect a permanent barrier at the emergency exit of Bethany Assembly of God Church on Allen St., Aga., MA (Pres. Rheault).
 5. TO-98-44-Transfer-\$11,500 from Agawam Municipal Golf Course-Undistributed (65263-35000) to Agawam Municipal Golf Course as follows: \$1,800 to Equipment Rentals (65262-52070) and \$9,700 to Chemicals and Lab (65262-52310)(Mayor).
 6. TO-98-45-Transfer-\$2,600 from Reserve Fund (16605-57300) to Mayor-Miscellaneous (11212-52990)(Mayor).
 7. TO-98-46-Transfer-\$40,000 from Salary Reserve Fund (16605-57350) to Building Maintenance as follows: \$38,000 to Salary (11921-51010); \$1,000 to Temporary Salaries (11921051020); and, \$1,600 to Overtime (11921-51030)(Mayor).
 - 8 TO-98-47-Application for License for four (4) automatic amusement devices for Buccaneer Lounge, 86 Maple St., Aga., MA
 9. TO-98-48-Application for License for twenty-five (25) automatic amusement devices for Games & Lanes, Inc. - 350 Walnut St., Aga. MA
 10. TO-98-49-Application for License for three (3) automatic amusement devices for Goodfellaz Grill & Brews, 360 N. Westfield St., FH, MA
 11. TO-98-50-Application for License for four (4) automatic amusement devices for Joey's Pub 147, Inc. - 827 Spfld. St., FH, MA
 12. TO-98-51-Application for License for one (1) automatic amusement device for Mario's Pizzeria, 4 Southwick St., FH, MA
 13. TO-98-52-Application for License for three (3) automatic amusement devices for Scoreboard Bar & Restaurant, Inc., 15 King St., Aga., MA
 14. TO-98-53-Application for License for three (3) automatic amusement devices for Spfld. Turnverein, 176 Garden St., Aga., MA
 15. TO-98-54-Application for License for four (4) automatic amusement devices for T.J. Sport House, 1664 Main St., Aga., MA
 16. TO-98-55-Application for License for two (2) automatic amusement devices for V.F.W. Post 1632, 194 South St., Aga., MA
 17. TO-98-56-Application for License for three (3) automatic amusement devices for Jessica's Lounge, 11 So. End Bridge Circle, Aga., MA
 18. TO-98-57-Application for License for three (3) automatic amusement devices for Ray-Mor, Inc. d/b/a Elbow Lounge, 386 Walnut St. Ext., Aga., MA
 19. TO-98-58-Application for License for four (4) automatic amusement devices for Wilson-Thompson American Legion Post 185, 478 Spfld. St., FH, MA

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ADVERTISER NEWS

TOWN OF AGAWAM SOLID WASTE COLLECTION ROUTES CHANGING

The Dept. of Public Works wishes to advise residents that commencing January 1, 1999, the routes and collection days for the curbside collection of solid waste and recyclables is changing for certain streets throughout the community. The housing growth experienced over the years has caused the number of stops on various routes to become unbalanced. This unequal work load means some routes may not be completed on the scheduled day while others may be completed early. These changes will balance the routes and improve the reliability of collection services. The impacted streets or portions thereof are as follows:

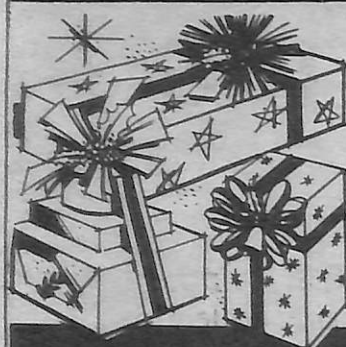
Street	Old Route & Day	New Route & Day	1st Pickup In 1999
Belmont Ave.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Belvedere Ave.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Brookline Ave.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Brookside Ave.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Calico Lane	5 - Mon.	7 - Wed.	Jan. 13
Cambridge St.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Candlewood Dr.	5 - Mon.	7 - Wed.	Jan. 13
Center St.	5 - Mon.	6 - Tues.	Jan. 12
Columbia Dr.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Cynthia Pl.	4 - Thurs.	3 - Wed.	Jan. 6
Doloris Lane	5 - Mon.	7 - Wed.	Jan. 13
Edgewater Rd.	5 - Mon.	6 - Tues.	Jan. 12
Edgewood Lane	5 - Mon.	6 - Tues.	Jan. 12
Family Lane	5 - Mon.	6 - Tues.	Jan. 12
Fordham Ave.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Granger Dr.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Gunn Geary Lane	5 - Mon.	6 - Tues.	Jan. 12
Kanawha Ave.	6 - Tues.	8 - Thurs.	Jan. 14
Karen Lynn Cir.	4 - Thurs.	3 - Wed.	Jan. 6
Lakeview Cir.	5 - Mon.	6 - Tues.	Jan. 12
Liquori Dr.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Main St. (River Rd. to CT Line)	6 - Tues.	8 - Thurs.	Jan. 14
Mill St. (Perry Ln to Cooper St.)	5 - Mon.	6 - Tues.	Jan. 12
Morningside Cir.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
North West St.	4 - Thurs.	3 - Wed.	Jan. 6
Northwood St.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Pembroke Lane	5 - Mon.	7 - Wed.	Jan. 13
Perry Lane	5 - Mon.	7 - Wed.	Jan. 13
Peterson Cir.	4 - Thurs.	3 - Wed.	Jan. 6
Red Oak Cir.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Riverview Ave.	6 - Tues.	8 - Thurs.	Jan. 14
Ruskin Ave.	6 - Tues.	8 - Thurs.	Jan. 14
Silver Lake Dr.	5 - Mon.	6 - Tues.	Jan. 12
Silver St. (Elm St. to Suffield St.)	5 - Mon.	7 - Wed.	Jan. 13
Springfield St. (Mill to F.H. Cen.)	1 - Mon.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Suffield St. (Main St. to Silver St.)	5 - Mon.	7 - Wed.	Jan. 13
Suffield St. (Silver St. to CT Line)	5 - Mon.	6 - Tues.	Jan. 12
Sunnyslope Ave.	6 - Tues.	8 - Thurs.	Jan. 14
Vassar Rd.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Veranda Ave.	6 - Tues.	8 - Thurs.	Jan. 14
White Oaks Dr.	3 - Wed.	5 - Mon.	Jan. 11
Woodcliff Ave.	6 - Tues.	8 - Thurs.	Jan. 14

New route schedules and collection regulations for 1999 are available in the Dept. of Public Works Office in the Town Hall at 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001. The 1999 Route Schedule and regulations are being mailed with water bills. Residents who wish to obtain a schedule at an earlier date may request same by mail including a self-addressed and stamped return envelope to the D.P.W. office.

Discount Liquors

786-8471

Prices Effective
Through December 31st



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1360 Springfield Street

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For A Great Variety Of Cigars,
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Phipps

DECEMBER WINE SALE

Almaden Bag Box / Various Retails (5 Ltr.)

Upper Tier - \$10.99	Mid Tier - \$9.99	Low Tier - \$7.49
Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot Chardonnay	Burgundy White Zinfandel	Golden Chablis Blush Mt. Rhine Alfresco Red White Grenache Chablis

Riunite (1.5 Ltr.) All Flavors		\$6.49
Glen Ellen Varietal (1.5 Ltr.) Cabernet, Chardonnay, Merlot		\$8.99
White Zinfandel		\$6.99
Kendall-Jackson Chardonnay (750 ml.)		\$9.99
Michel Picard French Merlot (750 ml.)		\$6.49

The Hogue Johannesburg Riesling		\$4.99
Fetzer Sundial Chardonnay (750 ml.)		\$6.99
Valley Oaks Cabernet Sauvignon (750 ml.)		\$6.99
Martini & Rossi Asti Spumante (750 ml.)		\$7.99
Korbel Champagne (750 ml.) Extra Dry And Brut		\$9.49
Moet Et Chandon White Star Champagne (750 ml.)		\$21.99
Andre Champagne (750 ml.) All Flavors - Cold Duck, Brut, Extra Dry, Pink		\$2.99

LIQUOR SPECIALS

Seagrams 7 (1.75 Ltr.) - \$10.99 (After \$3.00 Rebate)		Phipps Vodka (1.75 Ltr.) - \$9.49	DiSaronno Amaretto (750 ml.) - \$15.99
Jack Daniels (1.75 Ltr.) - \$24.99		J & B Scotch (1.75 Ltr.) - \$28.99	Grand Marnier (750 ml.) - \$26.99
Southern Comfort (1.75 Ltr.) - \$13.99 (After \$3.00 Rebate)		Chivas Regal (750 ml.) - \$21.99	Myers Dark Rum (750 ml.) - \$11.99
Seagrams Gin (1.75 Ltr.) - \$9.99 (After \$3.00 Rebate)		Glenlivet Single Malt Scotch (750 ml.) - \$22.99	Kahlua (Ltrs.) - \$18.99
Absolut Vodka (1.75 Ltr.) - \$21.99		Crown Royal Gift Set (750 ml.) - \$15.99	Remy Martin V.S.O.P. (750 ml.) - \$30.99
Popov Vodka (1.75 Ltr.) - \$11.49		Peachtree Schnapps (1.75 Ltr.) - \$13.99	Courvoisier Cognac (750 ml.) - \$20.99
		Bailey's Irish Cream (750 ml.) - \$14.99	Sambuca (750 ml.) - \$14.99
			Frangelica (750 ml.) - \$14.99

BEER SPECIALS

Imports

Bass Ale (England) 12 Pk. Bottles \$10.99	Heineken (Holland) 24 Loose Bottles \$18.99	Amstel Light (Holland) 24 Loose Bottles \$18.99	Becks (Germany) 12 Pk. Bottles \$9.99	Corona (Mexico) 12 Pk. Bottles \$8.99	Guinness Pub Draught (Ireland) 4 Pk. \$4.99
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Domestic

Sam Adams 12 Pk. Bottles \$9.99	Bud Bottles 20 Pk. Bottles \$12.99	Bud Light 20 Pk. Bottles \$12.99	Coors 30 Pk. Cans \$16.49		Coors Light 30 Pk. Cans \$16.49
Busch 24 12 Oz. Bottles \$9.99	Busch Light 24 12 Oz. Bottles \$9.99	Ice House 12 Pk. Bottles \$6.99	Red Dog 12 Pk. Bottles \$6.99	Mrs. Phipps Open Sundays 12-5	



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MR. PHIPPS

111 NO. ELM
WESTFIELD
568-8343

MRS. PHIPPS

RTE. 20
WESTFIELD
568-4377

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Full Lottery
Services

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FOR TYPOS

Melconian To File Bill For Merit Scholarship Program

Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) is pleased to announce that she is filing a bill for the 1999 session establishing a far reaching merit scholarship program for students attending public colleges and universities in Massachusetts. The scholarship would be based purely on academic merit and would pay students' tuition and fees for their four years of schooling.

"This program benefits both students and the Commonwealth," Melconian said. "It rewards graduates for their hard work and at the same time improves the caliber of the students at our public higher education institutions."

The bill's other beneficiaries include parents and local businesses. The program would ease the burden on middle class families whose income does not allow them to qualify for need-based scholarships, but also find the spiraling costs of higher education prohibitive. It would also benefit local companies by encouraging highly skilled workers to stay in the Commonwealth.

High school graduates would be eligible for a full scholarship to any public school in Massachusetts if they achieve a weighted 3.5 out of 4.0 grade point average and receive either a score of advanced on the MCAS test, finish in the top five percent of their graduating class, or a score in the top 15 percent of the SAT. The scholarship would continue through all four years of school as long as the student maintained a 3.0 out of 4.0 grade point average.

"We must continue to demand more and more from our students," said Melconian. "But we must also reward them for living up to and exceeding our expectations."

DPW Reminds Residents Of Winter Parking Regulations

The Agawam Department of Public Works wishes to advise residents of the ordinances regulating on-street winter parking between November 15th and April 15th.

The Department of Public Works has been empowered to declare on-street parking bans for the purpose of snow and ice removal and tow any vehicle parked on streets in violation of these bans. Any person whose vehicle is removed is responsible for the cost of towing and storage and is subject to an additional fine in the amount of \$25.

In order for the Department to efficiently and effectively clear snow, it is important that no vehicles be parked on the streets. Parked vehicles result in ridges of snow and ice that reduces the travelled width of the roadway and endangers the public. Costly repaving is required to clear the residue. Residents should be forewarned that the Department will remove vehicles violating any parking ban.

Residents are also advised that it is their responsibility to remove snow and control ice on the sidewalks in front of their homes and businesses. Sidewalks must be cleared of snow within 24 hours of the end of a storm.

The Department of Public Works is only empowered to plow sidewalks on major streets where children are required to walk to school.

— Agawam Obituaries —

Blanche M. Caron

Blanche Marie (Fortier) Caron, 97, of Agawam and formerly of Ludlow, died recently at a local nursing home.

She worked for Doctor Gaudreau in Ludlow and retired in 1952. She was previously a gun inspector at the Springfield Armory.

Born and schooled in Marlboro, New Hampshire, she moved to this area in the 1940's.

She was a communicant of St. Catherine of Siena Church in Springfield, a member of the Golden Agers, and a Cub Scout den mother.

She leaves three sons, Edward of Miami, Florida, Hank of Springfield, and Arthur of Kansas City, Missouri; a daughter, Claire Walker of East Longmeadow; 26 grandchildren; many great-grandchildren; and a lifelong friend, Ruth Barton of Springfield.

Another son, Albert, died in 1996.

The funeral was held at Sampson Chapel of the Acres Funeral Home and the church, with burial in Hillcrest Park Cemetery, all in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shriners Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104.

Alfred W. Freyer

Alfred W. "Bill" Freyer, 83, of 73 Corey Colonial, Agawam, died recently in Baystate Medical Center, Springfield.

He was employed for 24 years as a network inspector for Northeast Utilities, retiring in 1972. He previously worked for F.W. Sickles Co.

Born in Holyoke, he was a 1932 graduate of Holyoke High School, and a 1934 graduate of RCA Institute of New York.

He was a resident of Agawam since 1951.

He leaves his wife of 58 years, the former Nellie L. Lakeman; two daughters, Barbara N. Rostek of West Springfield and Janet F. Freyer of Wilbraham; a brother, H. Edward of Westfield; and two grandchildren.

A private funeral was held in Hillcrest Park Cemetery, Springfield. Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, 53 Capital Drive, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Elaine G. DellaGuistina

Elaine G. (Mongeau) DellaGuistina, 66, of Agawam, died recently at Baystate Medical Center, Springfield.

She was a cook and kitchen supervisor at James Clark School for many years and retired in 1995.

Born in Easthampton, she was raised in West Springfield and lived in Agawam most of her life.

She leaves three sons, Steve R. of Tolland, Richard G. of Springfield, and Paul R. of Southwick; two brothers, Robert Mongeau of Ludlow and Frederick Mongeau of Anchorage, Alaska; and four grandchildren.

A memorial service was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home, with burial in Island Pond Cemetery, Ludlow.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Lung Association, 393 Maple Street, Springfield, MA 01105.

Theresa M. Benjamin

Theresa M. Benjamin, 64, of 20 Maynard Street, Feeding Hills, died recently at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

She was a 40-year insurance saleswoman for the former Community Bank and retired in 1992.

Born in Ludlow, she grew up in Springfield and lived in Feeding Hills for 35 years.

She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

She leaves a brother, James Cestari of Spring Hill, Florida; a sister, Jeanne Cestari of Holyoke; a nephew, Adam Mercado of Holyoke; and a niece, Jamie Cestari of Spring Hill.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the church, with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the church at 1103 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA 01030.

ADVERTISER NEWS



Giovanni's Italian Pastry & Coffee Shop Specializing in Pastry & Custom Cakes

Celebrating Our First Anniversary

Thank-You, Agawam!

Order Early For All Of Your Holiday Pastries, Cookies,
Pies, Cakes, Miniature Pastries, And Fresh Bread
Call Ahead At 789-8900

Use These Special Coupon Offers:

Buy One Dozen Pastries,
Get 2 Pastries
FREE

Coupon Expires 1/2/99
(Must Present Coupon)

Buy 5 Or More
Cookie Trays

(2 To 3 Lbs. Each Tray)

\$1 OFF Per Tray

Coupon Expires 1/2/99
(Must Present Coupon)

Buy Half-Dozen Pastries,
Get 1 Pastry
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(Must Present Coupon)

Holiday Hours

Monday—Saturday	8 A.M. - 7 P.M.
Sunday	8 A.M. - 2 P.M.
Christmas Eve	8 A.M. - 7 P.M.
Christmas Day	8 A.M. - 11 A.M.
New Year's Eve	8 A.M. - 7 P.M.
New Year's Day	8 A.M. - 11 A.M.

719 Main Street — Agawam Center



Hair Design & Nails

Juniper Ridge Shops
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Feeding Hills

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Paraffin Treatments

Hand & Arm Massage

Nail Art

For Month Of December, 10% Off Any
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Families



LAST MONTH at the ASGA (Agawam Senior Games Athletes) bazaar held at the Agawam Senior Center, Lena Peloquin sold raffle tickets. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

For all the hometown news,
you turn our pages each
and every week ... AAN!!!

Holiday Bazaars Offer Shoppers A Variety Of Christmas Merchandise

by Kathy Shepard
AAN Feature Writer

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH'S LADIES AID SOCIETY ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Every year, the Agawam Congregational Church's Ladies Aid Society sponsors the All-Church Christmas Bazaar. Doris Preston, president of the Ladies Aid Society, made some time to discuss the bazaar and she "likes to think it's special."

She coordinated the many people whose work made the event possible, and she says, "What makes it wonderful are lots of wonderful people working together."

Of the many considerations for this bustling event, the kitchen and the food preparation, as well as the serving of the food, posed many challenges. The decorations, arrangements, and set-up of the tables had to be synchronized, and of course, publicity needed attention. "Putting this all together and having it work at the right time really takes teamwork," Mrs. Preston affirmed.

Members of their congregation as well as outside vendors who rent table space take part in the bazaar, as people come to visit or start their Christmas shopping. There is usually a raffle, and different church groups participate every year. The young people have a table and sell for their own church activities. The bazaar raises money for other church activities and events throughout the year.

There are many church groups represented within the day's event. One group enjoys crafts and sewing and display their creations at the bazaar. Another fancies baking, and yet another table offers candy. Mrs. Preston likened their "At-tic Treasures" to a "mini tag sale."

A big favorite was the "Clothes Tree Boutique." Each article of clothing or other wares is in new condition, and the selections tempt many visitors

to linger and shop.

Dorothy Randolph, working diligently in the "Friendship Room," where the "Clothes Tree Boutique" can be found, noted that the efforts are "a lot of work but a lot of fun and very rewarding. We've met many lovely people and many are repeat customers now. We offer quality new and used clothing, all in excellent condition."

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD PRESENTS "GIFTS AND GOOD TASTE"

The Women's Ministries of Bethany Assembly of God in Agawam held "Gifts and Good Taste" at the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street, Agawam on Saturday, November 21st.

Sandra Vallindras, who coordinated this year's programs, said that the proceeds of this year's "Gifts and Good Taste" go to benefit "missions" - at home and abroad. The church has purchased a home that will house missionaries and their families. Bethany supports many missionaries from around the world.

Each missionary endeavor requires support for housing and witnessing abroad, so a missionary lives in the house provided by Bethany, raises support for the next endeavor, then proceeds to the next step.

According to Sandra, "It's been a team effort of the Women's Ministries of Bethany Assembly of God that allowed us to gather in fellowship. We had work sessions to make it happen, and our vendors here are ladies of the church."

All items at this show were handmade and many unusual and tempting gifts could be had in time for Christmas. Silk arrangements, home floral designs, pinecone decorations, and lovely knitted, hand-sewn, or crocheted potholders, as well as other items, competed for one's attention,

SEE BAZAARS - Page 12...

786-1127

Alexander's

60 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills

786-1128

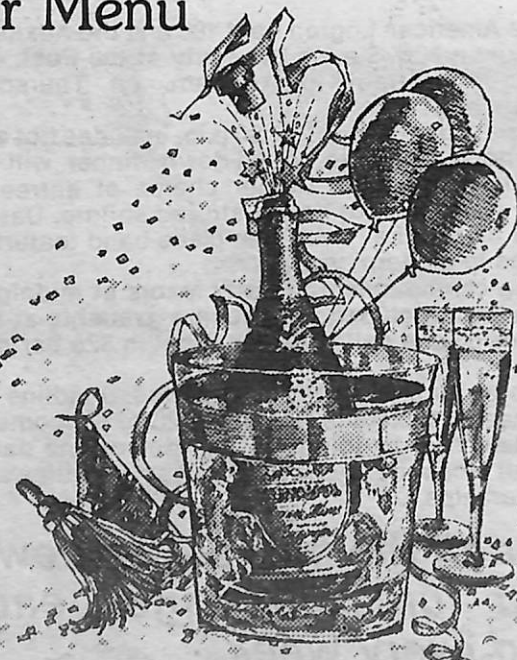
Musical
Entertainment
By A
Live D.J.

**Join Us
New Year's Eve**

We Will Be Serving Our Full Regular Menu
6:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M.

**Call In Your
Reservations
Now — 786-1127**

Your Hosts — Charles & Marlene Grasso



BAZAARS - from Page 11...

with appetizing distractions from the baked goods table. There were other fine and tasteful wares that can hopefully be reviewed at next year's event.

Flo Coyle oversaw cooking concerns, Sandra Vallindras kept in close touch with virtually everyone, and Dianna Carpenter kept an eye on the baked goods inventory. With team effort and a common and worthwhile objective, the results of the event were gratifying to all concerned.

AGAWAM SENIOR GAMES BAZAAR WINDS UP SUCCESSFUL FOR WINNERS

The stereotype of elderly persons being slow, unhappy, and out of things dissipates rapidly by visiting the Agawam Senior Center, where the Agawam Senior Games Bazaar was held on November 21st.

The word "vibrant" comes to mind. When committee member Vi Presz went to check on some information, her gait was like that of a teenager. In fact, every person there had a quality of kindness and interest in the visitors and an enthusiasm for the goal of the bazaar; to raise money for the Senior Games.

The Massachusetts State Senior Games are held every year at Springfield College. Every two years, there are National Senior Games held in various cities around the country. Cities bid to have these games held in their city. In 1999, the seniors are going to DisneyWorld in Orlando, Florida!

In order to participate, a person has to be 50 years of age or older. Divisions are held in shuffleboard, discus throw, shot put, javelin, and more. Mrs. Angelo Polumbo was introduced to javelin in 1997 and got a gold medal in the State games, qualifying her to compete in the Nationals. She already had qualified in bowling that year and earned a silver.

Vi Presz won in the Nationals in Tuscon, Arizona, earning a silver medal. The excitement and meaning of these games is obvious and completely cancels out any images of elderly people being cut off or unable to participate in fun. Nothing is further from the truth.

At the bazaar, coffee and donuts were served and there were grab bags for the children and adults. Gift selections were in abundance such as handmade items, lollipop Christmas trees, handmade angels (from macaroni), and other Christmas ornaments. Some pretty wreaths were added to everyday tag sale items and some unique creations were on display, too, like a Circle Line train set. Cute games made of wood were on hand, made by Angelo Polumbo.

There was a raffle that touted a crystal salad server set, Bavarian sugar, creamer, and butter dish set, and a handmade Christmas tree skirt. A Chinese auction lent interest as well. This kind of auction displays 10 boxes, each with different prizes. The "gamblers" put their tickets in front of the box of their choice. There were also large, stuffed yuletide stockings, each with a \$5 bill in the toe.

Just visiting this affair left a good and happy feeling with a visitor for the rest of the day, and some Christmas shopping could begin in a very fine place, for good measure.

JINGLE VALLEY FAIR AT AGAWAM FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

The Jingle Valley Fair of the Agawam First Baptist Church in Agawam Center was warm with Christmas fun and cheer from 9:30 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 21st, but preparations have been going on for several months. Edith Gottsche, secretary of the Women's Fellowship, explained that this year the executive board was responsible for coordinating the Fair.

SEE BAZAARS - Page 13...

New Year's Eve Party At American Legion

The American Legion Post 185 and the Auxiliary will host a New Year's Eve Party at the Post, 478 Springfield Street in Agawam, on Thursday, December 31st.

Social hour from 6:30-7:30 p.m. includes hot and cold hors d'oeuvres. A sit-down dinner will be served at 8:00 p.m. Dinner choice of entree is prime rib of beef or baked stuffed shrimp. Dance to the music of a "live" four-piece band featuring "oldies-to-modern" music.

Free champagne and party favors at midnight. Raffle also included. Tickets are available at the Post or please call 786-4806. Cost is \$25 per person.

Tables for groups can be reserved. Deadline for purchasing tickets is December 28th. Welcome in the New Year by joining us for dinner and dancing. All proceeds to benefit Agawam charities and scholarships.

*For all the hometown news,
you turn our pages each
and every week...*

* * *



IN LEFT PHOTO: Dot Brown and Norma Wheeler at Agawam Congregational's All-Church Christmas Bazaar. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Hope Paradysz and Lorie Baker at First Baptist's Jingle Valley Fair. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



IN LEFT PHOTO: Harry Ingram of the Agawam Senior Games Athletes (ASGA) at the Senior Center. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Barbara Gagnon, Ruth Blanch, and Clarice Scoville at Agawam Congregational's All-Church Christmas Bazaar. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Merry Christmas From Country Flowers & Gifts

501 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills
786-7563

Centerpiece Specials

* Candle Centerpiece - \$15.99

(Mini Carnations, Mums, Holly, Balls, & Christmas Greens)

* Angel Centerpiece - \$23.99

(Carnations, Minis, Holly, Fill-ins, Mums)



- Full Service
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- Accept All Major Credit Cards
- Gifts
- Poinsettias
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HOURS: Mon. Thru Sat.
9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.
(Open Sunday Dec. 20, 12:00 - 3:00 P.M.)



FLO COYLE, SAUNDRA VALLINDRAS, AND DIANNA CARPENTER at Bethany Assembly's "Gifts and Good Taste," held last month at the Captain Leonard House. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

BAZAARS - from Page 12...

A lively crimson backdrop distinguished the corner where Santa spent several hours, having his picture taken with members of the fellowship. Children lined up to have their photos taken, but so did adults, including a person who was over 90!

Over her skirt, Edith wore a pert, handmade apron which came from one of the many booths at this Jingle Valley Fair, for she was helping to serve at the Snowflake Luncheon from 11:00 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Other tables and displays offered a jewelry table (new this year) and candy. They call another feature "Elegant Junk," which is really a White Elephant Sale. There was a gift table, a children's table, and an ornament table.

There were drawings and door prizes, and for something unusual and unique, a Mr. & Mrs. Club carried cemetery baskets. The spirit of fun and good will prevailed at this Fair, and although Santa was not around, there were rumors he was coming back any time.



JEANNE WEBSTER AND NANCY EDWARDS were all smiles at the Jingle Valley Fair sponsored by Agawam First Baptist Church. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

'98 Holiday Ornament Available From Local Markets

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is pleased to present the 1998 holiday ornament. This year's ornament is the eighth in a series and depicts the Agawam Town Hall.

On the front of the ornament, a likeness of the Town Hall is engraved with the year it was built (1942). The back of the ornament has "Seasons Greetings, 1998, Agawam, Massachusetts, 8th Edition." The ornament was made in the United States from genuine pewter.

The ornament is available for purchase at the Agawam Public Market, the Corner Deli, the Feeding Hills Public Market, and Surprise! Card and Gift Store. The store owners and employees are a great benefit in getting the ornaments out to those interested in collecting them. We appreciate their help and your patronage.

Our first ornament in 1991 featured the Captain Charles Leonard House. In 1992, we featured the Old Agawam Center Library. In 1993, we featured the Agawam Middle School (formerly the Agawam High School).

In 1994, we featured the Annie Sullivan Memorial. In 1995, the Riverside Carousel Horse was featured. In 1996, the Agawam Fire House was featured. Last year, we featured the Town Seal. This year, the Town Hall makes a lovely addition to the collection.

Be sure to get your ornament as soon as possible, as only a limited supply was ordered. Ornaments from 1991, 1993, 1994, and 1995 have been sold out and are no longer available. Ornaments from 1992, 1996, and 1997 are still available for a limited time of \$5 per ornament. Please call Betty Vershon (786-4357) if you're interested in any of the older ornaments.

The cost of this year's ornament is \$6 per ornament. If you have any questions regarding the ornament, please call Pam Quirk at 789-3274 or Betty Vershon at 786-4357.

* * * * *

Because of Christmas, the deadline for our next issue is Monday, December 21st, at 12:00 noon.

* * * * *

Take 5 Restaurant

Steaks — Seafood — Chops

Gift Certificates For The Holidays

Enjoy Your New Year's Eve With Us!

Celebrating Our 10th Anniversary

Thanks To Our Wonderful Customers!



Open For Lunch

Tuesday - Friday, 11:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Open For Dinner

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Agawam's Home Of Steaks, Chops, Seafood, Prime Rib, Baby Back Ribs, And Of Course ... Our Famous Soup And Salad Bar

**944 Springfield Street
Feeding Hills
786-0962**

*New Sautéed Entree
Selections From
Our Bistro*

All Major Credit Cards Accepted



Junior Women's Club Holds "Breakfast" With Santa



ON SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6TH, the Agawam Junior Women's Club sponsored its annual pancake and sausage breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus. This holiday event took place at the Agawam High School, and youngsters from Agawam and Feeding Hills took advantage of the opportunity to meet and greet the "jolly old elf." IN LEFT PHOTO: Dee Adams of the Junior Women's Club "flipped" over her pancake duties. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Lauren Bell enjoyed visiting with the breakfast's "guests" of honor. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

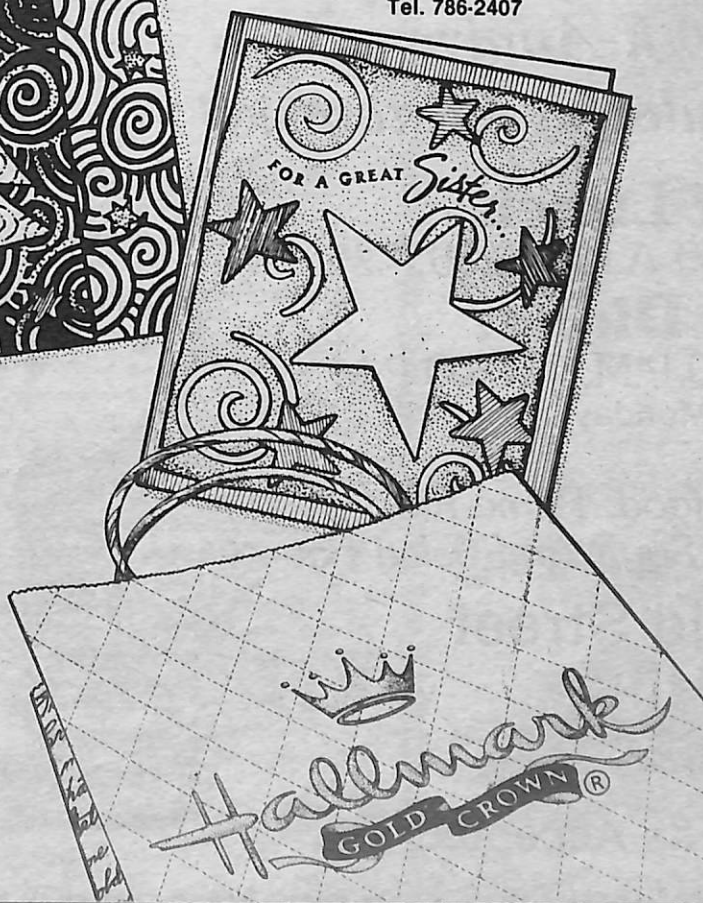
For copies of his photos in this edition, call AAN photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053. Thank you!

Glitter and Gold

Make their eyes sparkle with Christmas cards from Hallmark. You'll find the perfect card for everyone on your list with these shimmering holiday greeting cards.



Surprise!
Card & Gift shop
838 Suffield St., Agawam, MA
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Active people will appreciate the added safety of polycarbonate lenses, and we also offer thin, lightweight 1.6 High-Index Plastic and *Ormax* 1.55 Index Plastic lenses. For

photochromic lenses that change from light to dark, no one has a wider selection of *Transitions* lenses than Varilux Comfort. Varilux Comfort Polarized sunlenses provide unsurpassed glare reduction.

Don't accept substitutes—be sure you ask for the Certificate of Origin guaranteeing that you've received authentic Varilux Comfort lenses.

Call or visit our office today—whatever your lifestyle demands, there's a Varilux Comfort lens material that's right for you. Varilux Comfort—it's *the* lens.

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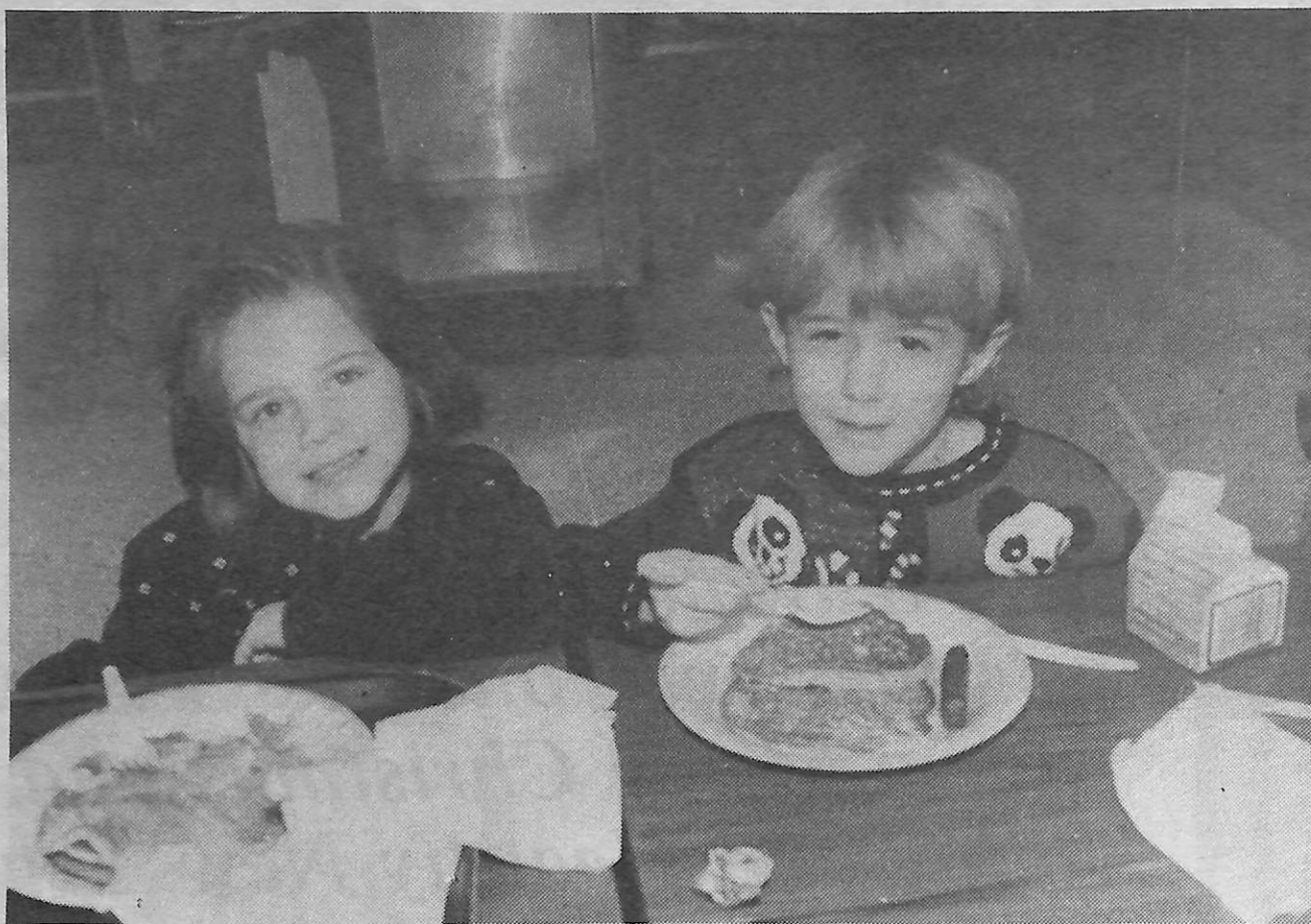


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"We've Been Good This Year, Santa ... Honest!"



ENJOYING THEIR MORNING MEALS at the breakfast with Santa and Mrs. Claus, sponsored by the Agawam Junior Women's Club on Sunday, December 6th, at Agawam High School. From left to right: Keegan Sullivan, April Daglio, and Sarah Daglio. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Agawam Library Still Has Room For Kids In Morning Storytime

There is still room left in the Agawam Public Library's Thursday morning storytime for Agawam and Feeding Hills preschoolers ages 3½ to five. It runs from January 7th-February 11th, beginning at 10:00 a.m. All other storytime programs are full, but reserves are being taken for the March session.

TO REGISTER, PLEASE CALL 789-1550, OR VISIT THE LIBRARY.

LEGAL NOTICE

You are hereby notified that a public hearing will be held at Agawam Middle School, 68 Main St., in the Town of Agawam, Massachusetts, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., on Monday, December 21, 1998 upon petition of Western Mass. Electric Company dated November 30, 1998 for permission to: replace pole number 3 and install anchor. This work is being done to install a new feed to T & R Wholesale, in the ways or parts of ways designated in said petition, along which

TOWN OF AGAWAM

designated route of line you are an owner of real estate as determined by the last preceding assessment for taxation.

Dated this 8th day of December, 1998.

Information regarding this petition may be obtained from Western Mass. Electric Company in Springfield, Tel. No. 785-5871.

Petition Number: 1358.

Street: Franklin Street.

Published: December 17, 1998

LEGAL NOTICE

Ursula Retzler
Clerk of the Council

Classified ads in the Advertiser News cost just \$10 per week for 30 words or less; however, we DO NOT take them over the telephone!!! Please mail your ad with payment to P.O. Box 263, Feeding Hills, MA 01030, or stop by our office at 14 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills.

PARTHENON Pizzeria Restaurant

835 Suffield St. (Rte. 75), Agawam

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The Holidays Are Coming—
Let Us **DO THE WORK FOR YOU!**

Parthenon Is Now Catering For
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Whenever You Have A Gang Coming!

Call Us For Details. We Can Fit Every
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Monday Through Thursday
\$2 Off Any Large Pizza
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Must Present Coupon — Expires 12/31/98

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AAN Everyday Special...
Buy 2 Grinders, Get 1 FREE
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All Major Credit Cards Accepted

Open Daily
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For Take-Out Call
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Full Menu Available To Please Everyone's Taste!

AGAWAM PUBLIC MARKET

*The staff of
Agawam Public Market
wishes everyone best wishes
for a Merry Christmas and a
Happy and Healthy New Year!!!*

USDA Choice

Bone-In Rib Roast	\$4.99 Lb.
Boneless Rib Eye Roast	\$5.99 Lb.
Boneless Rib Eye Steak	\$5.99 Lb.
Whole Boneless Rib Eyes	\$4.99 Lb.
Whole Bone-In Rib Roast (7 Ribs)	\$4.39 Lb.
Boneless Spoon Roast	\$2.69 Lb.
Boneless Sirloin Steak (Center Cut)	\$2.99 Lb.
Whole Boneless Top Sirloins	\$1.79 Lb.
Whole Butt Tenderloins	\$5.99 Lb.
Extra Lean Ground Round	
5 Lbs. Or More	\$2.49 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.99 Lb.
Lean Ground Beef	
5 Lbs. Or More	\$1.69 Lb.
10 Lbs. Or More	\$1.39 Lb.
Crown Roast Pork (Extra Fancy Center Cut)	\$2.99 Lb.
Bone-In Center Cut Pork Roast Or Chops	\$2.39 Lb.

Boneless Center Cut Pork Roast	\$2.69 Lb.
Boneless Center Cut Pork Cutlets	\$2.89 Lb.
Fresh Ground Pork	\$1.39 Lb.
Jordan Skinless & Shankless Hams	
Whole	\$1.99 Lb.
Butt Half	\$1.99 Lb.
Shank Half	\$2.49 Lb.
Center Cut	\$2.99 Lb.
Flavorite Boneless Half Hams	\$1.99 Lb.
Waybest Skinless & Boneless Chicken Breast	\$2.69 Lb.
Waybest Premium Turkeys	\$1.09 Lb.

*** Also Available ***

American Lamb Legs, Veal Cutlets, Etc.	
Janik Holiday Kielbasa	\$1.99 Lb.
Babci's Pierogies (Cabbage Or Potato & Cheese - 16 Oz.)	\$3.99

**Log Cabin Scented
Votive Candles**
(Great Stocking Stuffers)

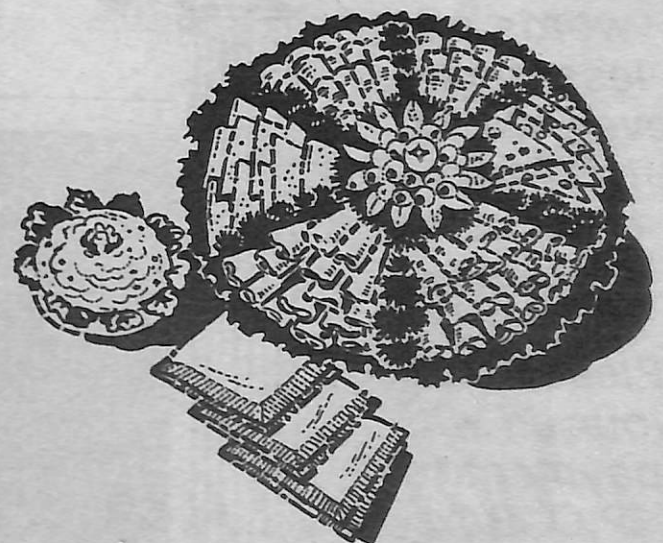
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*Large Variety
Super Price!!!*

**Fresh Custom-Made
Party Platters —
Made To Order Only!**
(Cold Cut, Cheese,
Veggie, Fruit)

Seafood

Cooked Tail-On Shrimp	
31-40 Count	\$8.99 Lb.
2 Lb. Bag	\$17.00
Frozen Lobster Meat (11.3 Oz. Can)	\$9.99
Frozen Crab Meat (Salad Style - 11.3 Oz. Can)	\$4.99
Fresh Cocktail Sauce (8 Oz.)	\$1.39
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Fruit Baskets
(Assorted Sizes)
Made To Order Only!

*** Prices Effective December 21

Shop Early
Closing 5:00 P
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(Christmas Eve)

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768 Main St. Agawam

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**Closed All Day
December 25th
Christmas Day****Tuesday &
Wednesday
SPECIALS****Fresh
Ground Chuck**

(7 Lb. Bag)

\$7.99

(Dec. 22nd-23rd & 29th-30th)

**Please Order
Your Holiday
Items Early
For Best
Selection...****Produce**

Native All-Purpose Potatoes (10 Lb. Bag)	99¢
Fresh Broccoli (Bunch)	\$1.19
Canadian Carrots (5 Lb. Bag)	99¢
Fresh Yams	69¢ Lb.
PEI Turnip	25¢ Lb.
Bananas	39¢ Lb.
Large-Size Tangerines	5 For 99¢
Red Emperor Grapes	\$1.19 Lb.
California Navel Oranges (Large Size)	4 For \$1.00
Red & Golden Delicious Apples	69¢ Lb.

Deli

Land O' Lakes White American Cheese	\$2.99 Lb.
Austrian Alps Imported Swiss Cheese	\$3.49 Lb.
Krakus Imported Ham	\$3.99 Lb.
Store-Baked Roast Beef	\$4.99 Lb.
Thumann's Gourmet Turkey Breast	\$4.99 Lb.
Hormel Genoa Salami	\$2.99 Lb.
Margherita Boneless Prosciutto	\$5.99 Lb.
Russer Low Salt Ham	\$3.49 Lb.

Frozen & Dairy

Hood 1% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$1.99
Hood 2% Low Fat Milk (Gallon)	\$2.29
Hood Skim Milk (½ Gallon)	\$1.29
Hood Half & Half Cream (Quarts)	\$1.89
Hood Sour Cream (Pints)	\$1.39
Hood Golden Egg Nog Quarts	\$1.99
½ Gallon	\$2.99
Grade "A" Jumbo Eggs (Dozen)	99¢
Tropicana Premium Orange Juice (½ Gallon)	2 For \$5.00
Friendly Ice Cream (½ Gallon)	2 For \$7.00
Friendly Jubilee Rolls	\$5.49

Christmas**Poinsettias**

(Large 6½" Pots)

\$5.99 Each**2 For \$11.00****Lay's
Potato Chips**
(Assorted Varieties)**88¢ A Bag**

per 21st Thru January 2nd ***

Local Military Men Deployed To Okinawa This Season

While most Americans are celebrating the holiday season at home or with family, Navy Hospitalman Chad E. Gilbert and Marine Gunnery Sgt. Kenneth J. Roberts are scheduled to spend the holidays deployed to Okinawa, Japan, with 2nd Battalion, 8th Marines.

Gilbert and Roberts are among the 65,000-plus Sailors, Marines, and Coast Guardsmen who are serving our country separated from their families and loved ones this holiday period. Both of these military men are working abroad to preserve peace as part of our nation's forward defense forces.

Second Battalion, 8th Marines is deployed to Okinawa under the Unit Deployment Program. Under the program, units based in the United States come to Okinawa for six months to train. From Okinawa, they can deploy to mainland Japan, Korea, and many other Pacific countries.

Gilbert, the son of Edward G. Gilbert of Agawam, is a 1996 graduate of Agawam High School. He joined the Navy in June 1996.

Roberts, a 1981 graduate of Agawam High School, joined the Marine Corps in February 1981.

Open Pantry To Hold 15th Annual Christmas Dinner

Open Pantry Community Services, Inc., a community service agency which provides shelter, social work advocacy, daily meals, and emergency groceries to the poor and homeless, will hold its 15th annual Christmas Day Dinner at 12:00 noon on December 25th at the Springfield Civic Center.

Anyone who would like to share in this community meal is welcome to attend, and there is no admission fee. Transportation to the Civic Center can be arranged for people unable to get there on their own. If a ride is needed, please call and leave a message on our voice mail, 737-5337, by December 23rd. The coordinators will get back to you as soon as possible.

Any contributions of desserts (pies, cakes, and cookies) and fruit will be greatly appreciated. The food items may be dropped off at the Civic Center after 9:00 a.m. on Christmas Day. Financial donations may be sent to the Open Pantry Community Services, Inc., P.O. Box 5127, Springfield, MA 01101-5127.

We have much to be thankful for, let's share it with others.

* * *

For photo coverage in The AAN, contact photographer Jack Devine at 789-0053; however, please give him at least 48 hours' notice prior to your event. Thank you!

* * *

VIDEO GAME HEAVEN

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FIRST STOP ...
MAKE IT YOURS**

Hours Mon-Sat 11-8 Sun-Closed



AT FIRE STATION NUMBER ONE, Agawam Fire Chief David Pisano presents a letter of endorsement to the Agawam Junior Women's Club on behalf of the club's efforts to raise money for the Agawam Helmet Fund. From left to right: Wilma Gillan (chairwoman of the Helmet Fund), Chief Pisano, Ann Woodard (club president), and Stephanie Bertagnolli. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Jr. Women's Club Updates Public On Status Of Agawam Helmet Fund

Members of the Agawam Junior Women's Club (AJWC) Helmet Committee recently met with Chief Pisano of the Agawam Fire Department to discuss fundraising plans. Chief Pisano presented the club with a letter of endorsement supporting this project and expressing the vital need the fire department has for this piece of equipment.

The AJWC Helmet Fund now has \$3,750, collected through donations and fundraisers toward a Thermal Imaging Unit for the Agawam Fire Department. Donations have been steadily coming in as people are coming together in support of this vital project.

Donations have come from a variety of sources. We recently received a check and note from a former Agawam resident (now residing in California) who found this cause important enough to support from that great distance. Another donation came from a gentleman who was a member of the Volunteer Fire Brigade at Hamilton Stan-

dard and has first-hand knowledge of the need for this equipment.

We also received a donation from the Memory Lane Chorus, from proceeds of their recent concert held along with the Junior High School Chorus. We appreciate these donations and the many other individuals and businesses who have supported this project.

A Thermal Imaging Unit is necessary to help our fire department save lives! This equipment allows firefighters to see in a dark, smoke-filled room and will help them save a person or find the source of a fire.

The cost of the unit will be \$25,000. We are in need of support from everyone in the community in order to make this a reality.

If you would like to contribute to this project, please send your donation to the Agawam Helmet Fund, P.O. Box 332, Agawam, MA 01001. We thank you in advance for your support.

Season's Greetings from

*Cathie and Marty Edelman at
The Pond House Restaurant,
re-opening the first
week of January 1999.*



THE POND HOUSE
Restaurant

1422 Main Street, Agawam
(413) 789-3799



MARION AND JOHN WYLIE

John & Marion Wylie Receive Surprise Party For 50th Anniversary

Family members and friends from as far away as Virginia and Florida arrived early last Friday evening at the Cavalier Restaurant in Chicopee. A surprise party was held in honor of John and Marion Wylie, who are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary (which falls on December 18th).

A memorable evening was enjoyed by all. "Congratulations to you, mom and dad ... from all of us."

JACK DEVINE needs at least 48 hours notice to cover your event. Call Jack at 789-0053.



LUCY AND HERB MORRIS

Herb And Lucy Morris Celebrate Their 50th Wedding Anniversary

Herb & Lucy Morris of Agawam recently celebrated their 50th anniversary at a party held at Alexander's Restaurant and attended by friends and family.

Mr. & Mrs. Morris were married on November 20, 1948 at St. Mary's Church in Westfield. Both worked together at the family farm, Morris Farm, in Agawam.

They have four sons; Steve, Joe, Gil (and wife, Geri), and Ray (& Michele). Their nine grandchildren also joined in the celebration.



MATTHEW ALEX PLASSE, JR.

The Plasse Family Announces Birth Of Son, Matthew Alex

Mark Alan Plasse, Jr., together with his parents, Mark and Kristine Plasse of Westfield, welcome home his new baby brother, Matthew Alex.

Matthew was born on November 4, 1998, and weighed six pounds, 8½ ounces.

Matthew's paternal grandparents are Richard and Joan Plasse of Chicopee, and his maternal grandparents are Rejean and Marilyn Remillard of Feeding Hills.

The great-grandparents are Josephine McKinnon and Annette Remillard, both of Feeding Hills, and Armand Joly of Chicopee.

Best local news...

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Since 1955

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HOLIDAY SALE 20% OFF

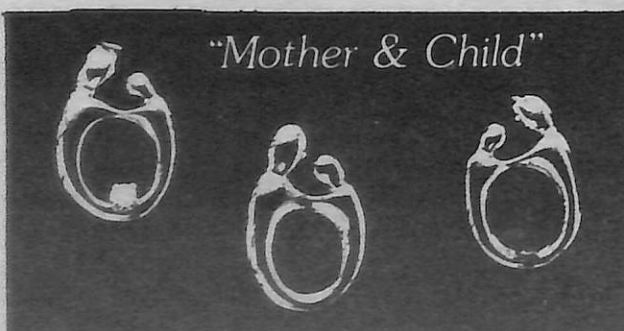
* Excluding Flyer Merchandise

All 14 Carat Gold In Stock

Chains • Earrings • Rings • Pendants • Bracelets



14K with ¼ ct.
marquise center.
43 ct. TW
Sale \$1,109

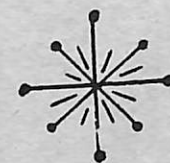


"Mother & Child"



HOURS:

Mon. & Tues., 9-6
Wed., 9-7
Thurs., Fri.,
& Xmas Eve, 9-4



**LAYAWAY
FOR THE
HOLIDAYS**
AT NO EXTRA
CHARGE



a. 07 ct. TW	Sale \$69
b. 10 ct. TW	Sale \$99
c. 16 ct. TW	Sale \$159
d. 1/5 ct. TW	Sale \$199
e. 1/4 ct. TW	Sale \$249
f. 1/3 ct. TW	Sale \$359
g. 1/2 ct. TW	Sale \$599
a. 10 ct. TW	Sale \$119
b. 15 ct. TW	Sale \$199
c. 1/5 ct. TW	Sale \$249
d. 1/4 ct. TW	Sale \$309
e. 1/3 ct. TW	Sale \$389



MR. AND MRS. ANTHONY D. PAONE

Tonya L. Tabin Becomes Bride Of Anthony D. Paone

The Meetinghouse at Storowton Village in West Springfield was the setting for the October 31st wedding of Tonya L. Tabin and Anthony D. Paone.

The bride is the daughter of Charlotte A. and Theodore A. Tabin of Agawam. The bridegroom is the son of Florence P. Phillips of Vernon, CT, and Anthony D. Paone III of Kensington, CT.

Karen LeBlanc attended the bride as matron of honor. Scott Werner served the bridegroom as best man.

The bride is a graduate of Agawam High School and Holyoke Community College. She is employed by Executive Risk as a underwriter assistant.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Rockville High School, CT, and is currently employed by Anocoil in Enfield, CT.

* * *

Why not "surprise" your friends or loved ones with a birthday ad in our pages! They cost just \$30, so bring yours in today...

* * *

Do You Believe It?
Mary Boothby's
30!
Best Wishes!



Love,
Jeff, Mom, Red, Mary, John,
Becky, Tiana, Chelsea, Joe,
Sue, Paige, & Natalie

Kathleen A. McIntyre And Gregory Quink United In Marriage

Kathleen A. McIntyre and Gregory Quink were united in marriage in an October 10, 1998 wedding at the home of the bridegroom's parents, RoseAnn and Robert Quink of Feeding Hills. The bride is the daughter of Marguerite and Michael McIntyre of Bethel, CT.

Susan Tiso attended the bride as maid of honor. Robert J. Quink served his son as best man.

The bride is a graduate of Joel Barlow High School in Redding, CT, and the University of Connecticut, Storrs. She is the owner of Precious Moments Day Care Center in Bethel.

The bridegroom is a graduate of Agawam High School and Springfield Technical Community College. He is a treatment plant operator for the Town of Enfield.



MR. AND MRS. GREGORY QUINK

Safe Kids Coalition Offers The Following Toy Safety Tips For Holiday Shoppers

"Many toy-related injuries occur after the holidays when parents overestimate their child's ability to handle a toy made for an older age group," said Shirley LaRoche, R.N., coordinator of the Western Massachusetts Safe Kids Coalition headquartered at Baystate Medical Center Children's Hospital.

If adults do not factor safety into their gift-giving, holiday excitement may turn tragic, LaRoche said.

When thinking safety first as you purchase a gift for children this holiday season, the Safe Kids Coalition offers the following suggestions:

* Toys with small, removable parts are hazardous particularly to children under age three.

* Toys with sharp points or edges may enable children to unintentionally cut or stab themselves or another person.

* Propelled toys should have soft, non-removable ends to prevent eye injury.

* Electric toys should be used by children who are at least eight years-old.

LaRoche noted that it's important to always use age recommendations as the guideline for selecting safe, appropriate toys.

"If a toy is too advanced, it then becomes a hazard," said LaRoche. "Toys should be interesting, well constructed, and durable to the child."

The Safe Kids Coalition offers additional tips for selecting the most suitable toys:

* **Infants to one-year-olds** - In the second six months, children become more mobile and are at increased risk of suffocation. The most suitable toys for the first year include activity quilts, stuffed animals without button noses and eyes, bath toys, soft dolls, baby swings, and squeaky toys.

* **One to two-year-old toddlers** - At this age,

children are curious and have no sense of danger. The best toys for this age group are books, blocks, fit-together toys, balls, push and pull toys, pounding toys, and shape toys.

* **Two to five-year-old preschoolers** - This age group likes tests of physical strength and begins to develop skills such as increasing finger control and the ability to build with large blocks and construction materials. Toys that are most suitable for this age group include approved nontoxic art supplies, books, videos, musical instruments, and outdoor toys such as a baseball tee stand, slide, or swing.

* **Five to nine-year-old school children** - In this age group, children are creative and more physically active. Recommended toys include bicycles, crafts, jump ropes, roller skates, and protective gear, puppets, electric trains, and sports equipment.

* **Ten to 14-year-old school children** - At this age, children enjoy team sports and games that require increased dexterity. For these children, the most appropriate gifts are computers, microscopes, table and board games, and outdoor sports equipment.

Your child's pediatrician can also assist you in determining which toys are safe for newborns, toddlers, and teens.

For a brochure on toy safety, which includes a list of age-appropriate toys for newborns to 14-year-olds, parents can go to the American Academy of Pediatrics website at <http://www.aap.org>, and click on "You and Your Family," then "AAP Public Education Brochures," then "Toy Safety."

For more information on toy safety, call LaRoche at 784-5434.



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Lions Club Donates To Open Pantry



THE AGAWAM LIONS CLUB recently presented a donation to Candy Boucher (third from the left) of the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry. From left to right: Lions Club members Bob Loomis, Bob Taupier, Christopher Johnson, Jim Loomis, and Bob Watson.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

"Hi, Mrs. Claus!"



MRS. SANTA CLAUS recently made a special trip from the North Pole to the Agawam Public Library to tell holiday stories and sing songs with the children in the Community Partnership for Children Program.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, December 21st: Stuffed shells with extra sauce, Italian vegetables, breadsticks, orange.

Tuesday, December 22nd: Beef barley soup, turkey sandwich on a roll, tossed salad, pineapple chunks.

Wednesday, December 23rd: Stuffed peppers, mashed potatoes, mixed vege-

tables, whole wheat bread, chocolate pudding.

Thursday, December 24th: 9:00 a.m. brunch — orange juice, omelette, breakfast sausage, potato puffs, fruit cup.

Friday, December 25th: Christmas Day (Senior Center closed).

(Menu subject to change without notice.)

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Church News

News And Notes From F.H. Congregational

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills. Worship hour begins at 10:00 a.m.

The Lectionary readings for December 20th, the fourth Sunday of Advent, are Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19, Romans 1:1-7, and Matthew 1:18-25.

Rev. Donaldson's sermon title is "God Has a Surprise for Us."

Children are welcome to attend worship with their parents, leaving at the designated time for Sunday School; nursery care will be provided for the very young.

There will be a collection taken this Sunday, December 20th, to support the Veterans of the Cross and Christmas Fund. This fund helps provide for retired clergy and their spouses.

The collection will be continued at both Christmas Eve services as well as December 27th.

The Board of Stewardship and Missions is collecting Health, Clean-up, and Layette kits for Church World Services. Slips listing the contents of each kit are available in Griswold Hall.

Kits may be dropped off in the box in Griswold Hall by December 27th. Please feel free to make more than one kit; there is a great need for kits due to Hurricane Mitch!

This Sunday we will celebrate this season with a Christmas Pageant Presentation at 4:00 p.m. The presentation will be followed by a pot luck supper.

All are welcome.

Celebrate Christmas Eve with us on Thursday, December 24th. There will be worship services at 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to attend both!

The office will be closed on Thursday, December 24th. Elaine will be working on Wednesday instead.

On the Sunday following Christmas, December 27th, Diane Ball will join us again to lead our morning worship while Rev. Donaldson enjoys some post-holiday rest and relaxation.

On the calendar:

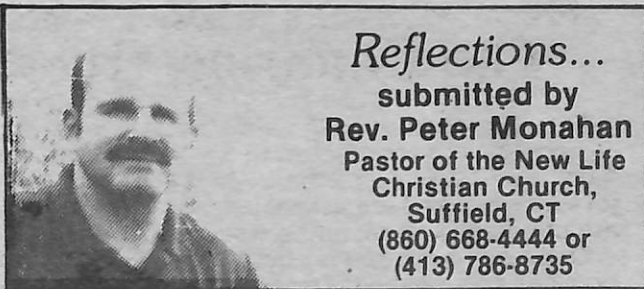
Sunday, December 20th: 10:00 a.m., Veterans of the Cross Collection; 4:00 p.m., Christmas Pageant Dinner Party.

Monday, December 21st: 4:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Cub Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Trustees.

Tuesday, December 22nd: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

Wednesday, December 23rd: 4:00 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 7:00 p.m., Choir.

Thursday, December 24th: 7:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Worship; 11:00 p.m., Christmas Eve Worship.



Reflections...

submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the New Life
Christian Church,
Suffield, CT
(860) 668-4444 or
(413) 786-8735

Christmas Is All About Forgiveness...

Many people have seen the bumper sticker which says, "Christians aren't perfect, just forgiven." Nothing could be closer to the truth. In all of history, there's only been one perfect Christian, whose birthday we are about to celebrate. Even the Apostle Paul, who did more than anybody else, other than Jesus Himself, to establish the Christian Church, said, "Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the worst."

However, God doesn't forgive us so that we can go on sinning. Indeed, God warns us clearly, for if we willfully persist in sin after having received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgment.

Make no mistake about it, the forgiveness God offers to us in Christ is not at all cheap or easy; not to the Giver nor to the recipient. Our forgiveness cost God the life of His Son. If we are to truly benefit from God's forgiveness, it will cost us our obedience.

Some people mistakenly think that as long as they believe in or have faith in Jesus, they'll be okay in the end. That is true as long as they don't go on living like the devil in the meantime. We cannot separate faith from obedience. Oh sure, we may try to all the time, but we can't succeed in such a misadventure.

The Bible says, what good is it if you say you have faith but do not have works? So faith by itself is dead. Faith must manifest itself in our day-to-day lives if it is true faith.

Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith. Faith which is never expressed or acted upon is not true faith. For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

Ahaz was a king of Israel who didn't have real faith. In those days, the king was also supposed to be a spiritual leader. When trouble arose, Ahaz was encouraged by the Prophet Isaiah to ask God for a sign to strengthen Ahaz's faith in God; a means by which Ahaz could be reassured that God would act on behalf of Israel.

Ahaz refused to honor Isaiah's request, feigning humility. Isaiah saw Ahaz's refusal as stubbornness and arrogance and disobedience. Ahaz was like a lot of people today, who say and perhaps even think they have faith in God, but don't really.

God, however, was gracious to Ahaz, even as he is gracious to us. Out of this very encounter came one of God's greatest promises. **Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Look, the virgin is with child and will bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel.**

In the immediate tense, the promise of Immanuel was a promise of temporal reprieve, that the enemies attacking Israel would go away. In the greater tense, the promise of Immanuel is of permanent redemption, to all who would accept it.

Christmas is all about forgiveness. Forgiveness is critically necessary for every one of us, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. Forgiveness is the first step in having a proper relationship with God.

It comes from the promise of God given through His prophets in the holy scriptures, the gospel concerning His Son, through whom we have received grace to bring about obedience of faith.

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in His holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek Him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Rev. Peter Monahan's column, "Reflections..." is a regular feature of the ADVERTISER NEWS...

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WHAT'S THE INCARNATION?

READ:
Hebrews 2:14-18

He had to be made
like His brethren,
that He might be a
merciful and faithful
High Priest.
—Hebrews 2:17

The incarnation. It's one of those big doctrinal terms that may puzzle us. What does it mean? Let's take a few moments to think about it.

Look at yourself in a mirror. What do you think it would feel like to be a different person? You will never know. You may modify your body by exercise and diet. You may change your mind and your behavior. You may even resort to surgery. But you and I will forever be the unique individuals God created us to be. Regardless of how much we may try, we can't actually experience what it is to be another person.

What was it like, then, for God to take on our human nature and live as a man who was despised and misunderstood on this fallen planet? (Isa. 53). He already knew exactly what sinful people go through. After all, He is all-knowing. Yet He voluntarily came to Bethlehem, entered into our suffering and sorrow, and personally experienced our trials and temptations (Heb. 4:15). He lovingly became one of us to pay the penalty for our sins and to conquer death (Heb. 2:14). Because He suffered, He is able to assist us now (v. 18).

That's what the incarnation is all about. And if we thank Jesus for all He did for us, it still won't be enough. —VCG

Touch me with sympathy within;

He knows our feeble frame;

He knows what sore temptations mean,

For He hath felt the same. —Watts

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Church News - continued...

Christmas Observed At First Baptist Church

Rev. Richard Barnes will speak on "The Ultimate Gift Exchange" at this Sunday's service of worship at 9:30 a.m. Romans 5: 12-21 will be the scriptural text for his message.

The fourth advent candle will be lighted. The responsive reading will be led by Alex Thomson.

Special music of the season will be presented by the choir. Greeters for the morning are Barbara and Ray Williams, and Betty and Harry Durant.

The flower committee will have in place the traditional poinsettia tree to decorate the sanctuary.

The Advent series, "Prepare Ye The Way," a joint effort with the Agawam Congregational Church, will conclude this Sunday evening with a meeting at the Congregational Church. Starting at 6:00 p.m., there will be special activities for all ages.

The series has been led by Rev. Curt Fuller, Rev. Richard Barnes, and Dan Pender.

On Christmas Eve, the traditional family service will be held in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. There will be special music of the season, featuring solos by Martha Fletcher and Carmen Oyola, with Christmas anthems by the choir.

A Christmas drama entitled "A Christmas Candle" will be presented by the First Baptist Players, with Steve Bailey. The service will conclude with the traditional individual candlelighting ceremony.

The First Baptist Church, an American Baptist Church, is located on the corner of Main and Elm Streets. You are cordially invited to attend any of our services, where you will receive a warm welcome.

The members and friends of the church wish you a very blessed Christmas.

Please note: The Trading Post consignment shop will not be open on December 23rd or December 30th. They will reopen in January.

From Agawam United Methodist Church... The Enduring Question Of Peace On Earth

Throughout the many years that have accompanied the human being on the journey of life, many questions concerning how life is lived, enjoyed, or avoided are asked daily. Some questions are constant and recurring from year to year.

One such question is about PEACE. This question has been asked directly, as "How can I find peace? Why don't I have peace at home or at work?" Sometimes indirectly, a statement like "I must have 'peace'" conveys the same inner unrest.

Modern civilization is not exempt at any level from the same thirst or hunger for that state of wholeness or completeness that conveys assurance and fortifies against possibly destructive forces. In villages, towns, and cities, people have learned to organize themselves to combat principles, values, actions, and behavior that undermine the establishment of peace among them.

On a wider level still, the international community calls its leaders to international peace conferences. Yet, the peace that follows is nothing but temporary moments of quiet, when (for a while) ammunition remains dormant as we gaze suspiciously at each other, waiting to discover the occurrence of the usual "breach of the peace."

Today, while we turn away from the Mid-East with hopes high that we are on our way (once more) for peace between Israel and the Palestinians, we return home where unsettlement and fear runs high in the hearts of many; that once again the country faces a time of crisis, as the possible impeachment of a President remains the ongoing topic of conversation of the day. So, again, the question is asked — "Where is peace?"

More directly, however, I have been asked this question: "If Christ came to bring peace, and there are so many churches in the world, why do we have wars, quarrels, broken relationships, and more?"

This is a question that can only be answered by asking another question. Many years ago, a similar question was asked of a well-known national speaker at Hyde Park. The speaker replied,

"Water has been in the world and available to all, including human beings. Why is it that some people still go dirty?"

It seems to me that if someone comes offering to us a gift that we all the time longed for, we would at least stretch out or hold out our hands to receive that gift with thanks.

No institution has in the history of mankind been able to establish lasting peace. Yes, there have been times of truce, times of quiet, but even within these times we have heard, "What's going on?"

We celebrate CHRISTMAS as the event that reminds us that Jesus, the Prince of Peace, came so that all persons who desire it may experience peace. To have this, we must be eager and willing to accept it.

To His followers, He said, "Peace I leave with you, not as the world gives, give I to you."

This is understood to mean that even if in the world there are wars, quarrels, confusion, hatred, and misunderstandings, the person who has experienced the "Peace of God" within will live with a sense of assurance that God's power is in control and that there is purpose in all creation to be fulfilled, according to God's will.

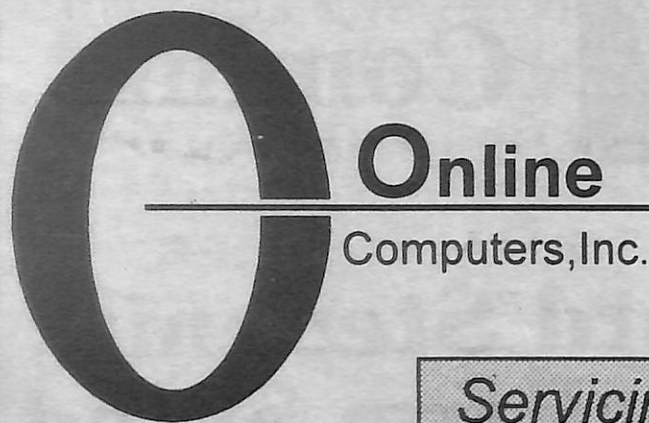
We will then know that the "love of God" surrounds his people everywhere and anywhere, and nothing can separate us from God.

This Christmas then, we send the greeting of our church to all who read this article, in the hope that your hands and hearts are now reaching out to accept the most wonderful gift of Jesus.

The Agawam United Methodist Church takes this opportunity to send you greetings for a merry and meaningful Christmas, and a new year full of the riches of God's blessings.

We invite you to join us at worship on Thursday, December 24th (Christmas Eve), at 7:00 p.m. This will be a Candlelight Service. It will effectively remind us of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World.

Sunday worship is at 9:30 a.m., and Sunday School is at 8:15 a.m.



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Church News - continued...

Roast Beef Dinner At Feeding Hills Congregational...



FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH held a roast beef dinner on Saturday, December 5th. From left to right: Richard Rozanski, Christine Davignon, Jim Davignon, Rev. Rob Donaldson, Amanda Rozanski, and Laura Jutte. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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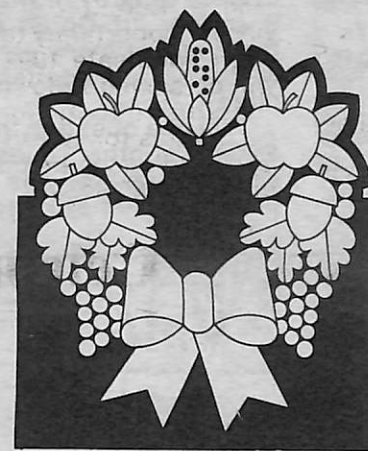
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Church News - continued...

Parish News And Events From St. John's Church

FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATES

At Christmas, we will once again provide food for our needy families in the form of gift certificates (we had 19 for Thanksgiving). If you would like to participate in this project, you can donate money or purchase a certificate at a nearby grocery store.

Please call Sr. Fran White at 786-4499 or bring your donation to the Parish Office. We will distribute the certificates by coordinating with some of the families on our Giving Tree.

Please have your gift in *before* December 20th. We thank you in their names!

AGAWAM CATHOLIC SINGLES

The group meets on the second Thursday of every month.

December Schedule:

December 18th: Christmas Gathering at Ramada. Call Irene, 789-2018.

December 20th: Assist with Giving Tree project after 11:30 Mass.

THE GIVING TREE

The Giving Tree is beautifully barren as 490 tags have been picked up. We trust those who took them will pick up the gift, wrap it and leave the ornament on the outside with the code number visible, and return it by December 20th.

We pray that this project will help all of us become more spiritually ready to celebrate the Birthday of the Lord.

SEPARATED AND DIVORCED

We have begun a support group for separated, divorced, and widowed individuals. This group will meet on the second Thursday of each month.

For further information, call Kay at 786-8442.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

We have begun our support group here at St. John's. This is for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one.

Beginning this month, we will meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month at 1:30 p.m. For more information, call the Pastoral Office at 786-4499.

St. David's Church Announces Schedule Of Holiday Services

The members of St. David's Episcopal Church in Feeding Hills welcome the public to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and the coming of the New Year by joining them in worship.

The church will hold two services on Christmas Eve, Thursday, December 24th. The 5:00 p.m. service is designed for people of all ages, and especially for children, each of which will be given a special gift at the conclusion. Child care will be provided for smaller children for the duration of the 1 1/4-hour service.

The 11:00 p.m. service is the traditional "Midnight Eucharist" and will feature candlelight, the Praise Choir, and congregational singing of Christmas carols. The service will conclude about 30 minutes in Christmas Day.

The Rector, the Rev. Len Cowan, will speak at both the 5:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. services.

Later on Christmas Day, the church will host a 10:00 a.m. Eucharist which will feature carol singing and a brief message by the Rector. People of all ages are welcome to this one-hour service.

On the weekend which will follow, St. David's will hold its normal services of the Holy Eucharist: Saturday at 5:00 p.m., and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. A shortened version of the traditional English service of Lessons and Carols will be held at all services, including the 10:00 a.m. service which will be particularly designed for children, and will feature some younger readers of the Scriptures.

To finish out the Holidays, the church will host a New Year's Eve service at 8:00 p.m. in celebration of Jesus, King of all the Ages. This service of singing, Scripture, a message, and prayer will provide an opportunity to thank God for the year past, and to dedicate 1999 to His glory. Refreshments will be served following the service.

Further information about these and other opportunities for spiritual growth with the people of St. David's may be obtained by calling the parish office at 786-6133.

Weekly Calendar From Ag. Congregational

This Sunday, December 20th, is the Fourth Sunday in Advent. The Worship Service begins at 10:30 a.m. at Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam.

The Choir will be performing their Christmas Music Program under the direction of Ellen Cogen, Minister of Music. The Golden Bell Ringers will ring the Prelude and Postlude. They are under the direction of Alice Moore.

The Cormier family (Rick, Michelle, and Nicholas) will be lighting the Advent Candle at the beginning of the Worship Service.

All children in Sunday School classes (sixth grade and younger) will begin downstairs in their classrooms at 10:30 a.m. to participate in their Christmas Party.

The Open Pantry item for this Sunday is your choice of a holiday item (nuts, raisins, candy, fruit, etc.).

Items collected will be donated to the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry.

The Advent Series, "The Jesse Tree," will have its final session here on Sunday, December 20th. The group will meet at Quail Run at 6:00 p.m. to carol (also caroling at Heritage Woods), returning back to the church to conclude the study series.

All Youth Groups are invited to attend this session to carol with the adults.

The series is led by Rev. Curt Fuller, Rev. Rick Barnes, and Christian Education/Youth Director Dan Pender.

The Christmas Eve Pageant Service (5:00 p.m.) has its final rehearsal (dress) this Saturday, December 19th, from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

The Brass Ensemble will practice together with the Children's Tone Chimes.

Pick up your costumes today. It is not too late to participate.

The Christmas Eve Service Schedule is as follows: 5:00 p.m. (pageant), 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. (Candlelight Services).

Christmas Eve Service Scheduled At Valley Community Church

Valley Community Church will once again be holding a Christmas Eve Worship Service.

The candlelight service begins at 11:00 p.m. We invite all from our community to come and share in the joy of the birth of Jesus Christ through prayer and song.

Valley Community Church is located "high on a hilltop" at 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

Celebrating The Season Of Advent At Valley Community Church In Feeding Hills

Valley Community Church is in the midst of celebrating the Advent season and invites everyone to join its parishioners.

This Sunday, Rev. Loesch will share a message entitled "The Shining Star," with scripture taken from Isaiah 55:6-13 and Luke 1:57-80. Also during the service, the children of the church will participate in a Nativity play, with special music sung by the Junior Choir.

The service begins at 9:30 a.m., and nursery

care is available for infants and toddlers.

A candlelight service will be held on Christmas Eve at 11:00 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Members of the church wish all in our community a joyous Christmas and many blessings throughout the coming new year.

Valley Community Church is located at 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills.

All the church news with us, every week...

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Feeding Hills Center

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Spotlight On Business



IN LEFT PHOTO: The sign welcoming customers to "Monarch Floral & More." IN CENTER PHOTO: Owners Debbie Marchetto and Judith Tremblay. IN RIGHT PHOTO: Stephanie L. Marchetto holds a holiday angel. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

'Monarch Floral' Opens Its Doors On North Westfield St. In Feeding Hills

Monarch Floral & More, located at 336 North Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, is now open to offer fresh flowers, plants, plant gardens, silk arrangements, delivery service, and other gifts (including gift baskets) that are ready-made and personal.

The owners, Debbie Marchetto and Judith Tremblay, are here to offer these services to the neighborhood and community. Debbie is the designer for the business, and she has many years of experience in the floral industry.

"The monarch butterfly is our logo," stated

Judith. "It was chosen in memory of Debbie's sister and my daughter, Darlene, who passed away in September 1997."

Judith continued, "Darlene spent time with Debbie and, on the occasions of outdoor activities, there was always a monarch butterfly around. The day she passed away, Deb was on our deck and a monarch butterfly perched on the table and stayed until Deb came in the house."

"When Debbie goes to her son's outdoor events, there are butterflies around."

"Darlene had always encouraged Deb to branch out on her own, whether it was a flower shop or

jobs," added Judith. "She always thought positive and made Deb feel great in any decision she made, knowing someone cared."

"We made the decision to go into business knowing Darlene is watching over us and the logo is in tribute to Darlene."

"Our goals are to be an asset to the neighborhood and community, offering our services to everyone," concluded Judith.

Monarch Floral & More is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Please be sure to patronize your area businesses this Christmas season...

Richard W. Gallerani, OD
Julianne Rapalus Gallerani, OD

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D.M.D., M.S.



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786-0555

Spotlight On Business - continued...



Travel Talk...

by Lori Keeley, CTC
Travel Connections, LTD
10 Chestnut Street
West Spfld., MA 01089
(413) 732-1313

The Orlando Vacation Destination For The 21st Century

As an alternative to everyone who has been to Walt Disney World and would like an exciting theme park for all ages, consider a Universal Studios Escape.

Universal Studios has created a new vacation destination in Orlando, Florida., combining the creativity of Hollywood with the greatest stories of all time.

Now with more than 40 rides, shows, movie sets, and attractions, Universal Studios will offer two theme parks and opening in the summer of 1999, the Islands of Adventure, Universal Studios Citywalk, and on-site resorts.

A visit to the park requires at least a two-day minimum in order to see all the fantastic attractions such as the newest ride, Twister, and Terminator 2, Back to the Future The Ride, Nickelodeon Studios, E.T. Adventure, A Day In The Park With Barney, Jaws, Earthquake-The Big One, Kongfrontation, and The Fantastic World of Hanna-Barbera.

Then, opening in the summer of 1999, the Island of Adventure continues with attractions such as Jurassic Park, Toon Lagoon, Marvel Super Hero Island, and The Lost Continent.

Just when you thought it was over, step over to Universal Studios Citywalk. The Citywalk will offer the hottest entertainment in Orlando in an expansive, 30-acre complex featuring a mix of live entertainment, fun and dining establishments, specialty shops, and cinemas. A two-day Escape Pass costs approximately \$79 per adult and \$63 per child (ages three through nine).

So plan for your next vacation to include Universal Studios in Orlando, Florida.

* * *

Because of Christmas, the deadline for our next issue is Monday, December 21st, at 12:00 noon.

* * *

Bambi Schoolchildren Visit Glen Gary...



CHILDREN FROM THE BAMBI SCHOOL OF AGAWAM recently paid a visit to Glen Gary Christmas Tree Farm, located at 539 Shoemaker Lane, Agawam, and enjoyed a holiday wagon ride. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



Holiday Hours

For your banking convenience all offices of Westfield Bank will observe the following hours:

Thursday, December 24 - closing at 3:00 PM

Friday, December 25 - closed

Saturday, December 26 - closed

Thursday, December 31 - closing at 3:00 PM

Friday, January 1 - closed

Saturday, January 2 - open 9:00 AM - 12:00 noon

Easy Access 24 ATMs will be in operation 'round the clock throughout both weekends.

Happy Holidays

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West Springfield, Agawam,
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* Open Christmas Eve until 7 pm

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(413) 821-9571



Spotlight On Business - continued...

New Kids' Boutique...



MAYOR CHRISTOPHER C. JOHNSON recently participated in the ribbon-cutting ceremony for "Little Gracie Blue Shoes," a new children's specialty boutique located at 2 South End Bridge Circle. Owners Cathy Peetros, Cheryl Michaud, and Jean Mantha welcomed customers throughout the day to enjoy refreshments while browsing at the handmade (on the premises) christening and special occasion outfits. They also have other unique baby gifts to offer. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Pam Savioli

Landry, Lyons,
Stearns & Yerrall/
Better Homes & Gardens
(413) 748-7565



Insulating Safety...

Insulating your home can increase your comfort and provide energy savings, too. Many homeowners tackle insulating as a do-it-yourself project.

If you're considering such a project, here are a few tips to help you insulate safely:

- Since fibers and cellulose are irritating to the skin, wear a loose-fitting long-sleeve shirt, gloves, and long pants.
- Wear a mask to avoid inhaling insulation fibers and dust. If you have a respiratory problem, check with your doctor first.
- Don't rub your eyes when working with insulation.
- After the project, wash clothes separately from other clothes and rinse out the washer after washing.
- If insulation fibers, rock, or slag wool get on your skin, don't rub off the fibers. Instead, take a shower using warm water and soap.
- Keep insulation at least three inches away from the sides of recessed lighting fixtures, motors, or any heat-producing equipment (chimneys or flues).
- Never smoke or light a match to see your way in a dark attic or crawlspace. Ashes can smolder and start a fire.
- Use walk boards when working in the attic to avoid falling through the floor.

For more home-and-family information, call Pam Savioli at (413) 748-7565.

Our classifieds bring FAST, FAST results. Send in yours today!

Legal Memo

by

Alan L. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-9454



NEGLIGENCE & TORT

Batting Cage Machine - Fractured Left Eye Orbital

The 35 year-old plaintiff was hit on the left side of the face by a ball while taking batting practice in a fast-pitch batting cage in May of 1997. The plaintiff was diagnosed as having a fractured left orbital and underwent orbital repair surgery in September of 1997.

Although the surgery was successful, the plaintiff still experiences some sensation loss on the left side of his face and has occasional double vision.

Witnesses alleged that the plaintiff was appropriately positioned in the "batter's box" and was wearing a helmet. According to the plaintiff, there was no warning sign on the outside of the cage.

The defendants alleged that the plaintiff had contributory negligence and assumption of risk.

The case finally settled in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the plaintiff.

Attorney Alan L. Ferrigno maintains an office at 546 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, Massachusetts. If you have a legal question, Attorney Ferrigno will attempt to address the same in this column. Please send any questions to the address listed above.

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* * *

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KINNEY'S
1 HOUR PHOTO

Buy one, get one **FREE** on color enlargements from the same 35 mm negative (5x7's, 8x10's, 11x14's - glossy only).

This offer on enlargements ends on **December 22, 1998!!!**

Cards for Kids, too!

Whether your special little elf is picking out a card or you need to pick out a card for a special little elf, these value-priced cards are just dandy.



Surprise!

Card & Gift shop

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Sat. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Tel. 786-2407



Kids Cards
Only 99¢



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For Your Health



Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph
S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

Since beginning a practice in Agawam over 20 years ago, I've witnessed many changes in the perception and attitude surrounding the chiropractic profession.

Both the general public and the medical community have come to better understand the benefits that chiropractic care offers.

The Journal of the American Medical Association has gone where it has never gone before. It made November "alternative medicine" month.

Power to the people! Yielding to pressure from that most influential entity, the consuming public, the medical community has taken a new look at health care practices falling outside the traditional medical model.

The November issue of the *Archives of Internal Medicine* published a paper entitled "Chiropractic: Origins, Controversies and Contributions." It states that chiropractic is an important component of the U.S. health care system and the largest alternative medical profession.

It concludes that chiropractic has endured, grown, and thrived in the United States and suggests that it will continue to endure as an important component of health care in the United States.

It further states that in the response to countless requests for the treatment of pain, chiropractors have consistently offered the promise, assurance, and perception of relief. Chiropractic's ultimate lesson may be to reinforce the principle that the patient-physician relationship is fundamentally about words and deeds of connection and compassion. Chiropractic has managed to embody this message in the gift of the hands.

Nicely said.

Support Groups Offered At Noble Hospital In Westfield

Alcoholics Anonymous: Sunday evenings, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital, 115 West Silver Street, Westfield.

Free of charge. All are welcome.

Stroke Support Group: Wednesday, December 23rd, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. In the Bronson Rehabilitation Center Dining Room at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals recovering from a stroke and their support persons.

A holiday celebration for Stroke Support Group members will be held at this meeting, which will be facilitated by Barbara Boulanger, M.S.W., L.I.C.S.W.

Diabetes: Tuesday, December 22nd, 1:00 p.m. In Conference Room A at Noble Hospital.

Free of charge and open to individuals suffering from diabetes and their support persons.

A holiday celebration for Diabetes Support Group members will be held at this meeting, which will be facilitated by Gail O'Hara, R.N., C.D.E., Certified Diabetes Instructor.

Mercy Hospital Offers Cholesterol & Blood Glucose Screenings

Mercy Hospital will conduct cholesterol and blood glucose screenings Thursday, Dec. 31, 8:00-10:00 a.m., in the Memorial House Auditorium on the hospital campus.

There is a \$10 donation for the cholesterol screening; a \$2 donation is requested for the blood glucose screening. Fasting for 12 hours (water is allowed) prior to testing is recommended; results will be mailed to participants.

No advance registration is required. For more information, call the Patient Education Department, (413) 748-9024, weekdays between 8:00 and 9:00 a.m., or leave a message.



Chiropractic Care
by
Dr. Tami Nelson
Chiropractic
Physician
Hampden County
Chiropractic
850 Springfield St.
Feeding Hills
786-4820

When To Use Heat Or Ice

People often ask which is better to use, heat or ice. The rule of thumb is that if the injury is new, apply ice. Ice applied to injured muscle lowers the temperature of the damaged or injured tissue. The temperature decrease helps the tissue survive the period of hypoxia (low oxygen level) which commonly follows injury.

A recent study measured muscle temperature responses to frequently used cryotherapy (ice) techniques, ice massages, or ice bags. It was found that both ice massage and ice bags are effective in reducing muscle temperature. When rapid cooling is needed, as in acute muscular trauma, ice massage appears to provide a faster intramuscular cooling rate than an ice bag.

The winter sport season is upon us. If an injury occurs during skiing, skating, sliding, or shoveling, apply ice. Use either a bag or, to be more effective, take an ice cube and rub the affected area for about 15 minutes. Do not use heat for the first 48-72 hours.

After that, apply heat for short periods of time (5-10 minutes). Moist heat is usually more effective than dry. If the muscles are tight or achy from a long day, heat is usually more beneficial.

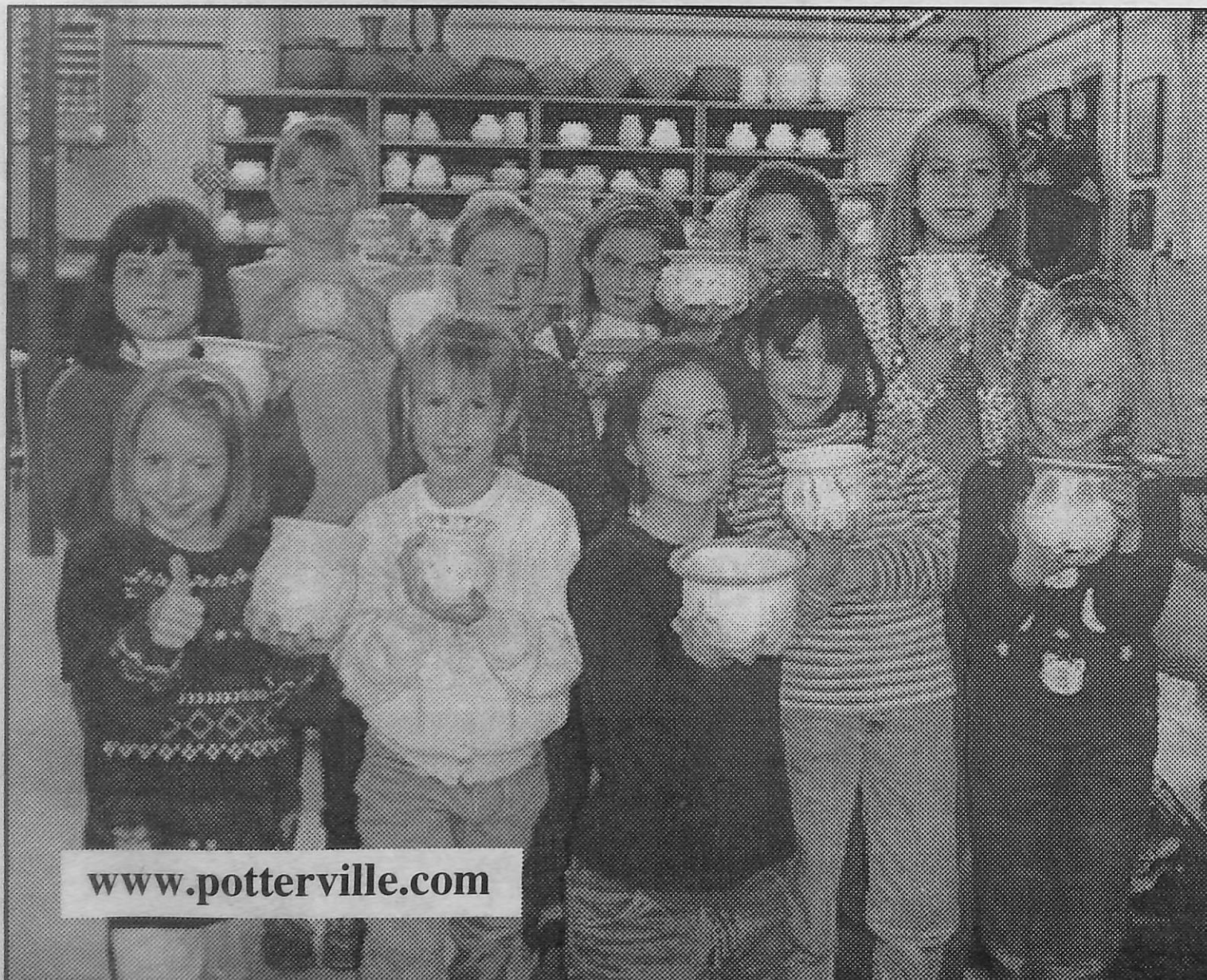
If you have any questions about when to use heat or ice, please call our office and ask! Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, 786-4820.

Be sure to patronize your local businesses...

* * *

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Handmade Pottery You Can Glaze On Your Own

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For Your Health - continued...



Food for Thought

by Nancy Dell
Registered Dietician

Unwanted Guests This Holiday Season?

The turkey's in the oven, the table is set, and the guests are arriving. You've wiped up the messes and spills left from preparing the meal on the surface. Everything looks clean, but is it ready for your holiday guests?

Maybe not. According to a new scientific study, cleaning with dishcloths can contaminate your kitchen by spreading germs that were picked up from previous spills and messes. The study measured germs on home countertops before and after they were cleaned with a dishcloth. The results demonstrate that a used dishcloth can contaminate countertops throughout a kitchen with millions of germs.

Dr. Elizabeth Scott, Microbiologist and Food Safety Expert, says, "When you take a dishcloth and use it to clean surfaces in your kitchen, you pick up the mess and along with the mess, you also pick up germs. When you take the cloth to the sink and rinse it, you rinse away the mess, but you don't rinse away those germs. So, next time you take the cloth to do another job in the kitchen, a cleaning job, there's a good chance you're going to be spreading those germs to anything else the cloth touches."

The uncooked juice of the traditional holiday turkey or roast can contain potentially harmful bacteria, like salmonella and E. Coli. If this bacteria is spread to anything you put in your mouth, like utensils or other food, you can get sick. Scott says, "One of the best ways to prevent cross-contamination in the kitchen is to replace those kitchen sponges and dishcloths, and instead use an absorbent and durable paper towel. Because a paper towel is thrown away after each use, it doesn't spread germs from previous uses."

Dr. Scott offers these tips to help you and your family have a happy, healthy holiday:

- * Replace rags and dishcloths with paper towels or wash dishcloths after one use.

- * Don't put cooked meat and poultry on the plate used for preparations; use a clean plate to serve food.

- * Clean and disinfect all areas and surfaces that may have been touched during food preparation.

- * Refrigerate leftovers right away.

Following these tips just makes it that much easier, and safer, for you and your guests to enjoy the holiday season. To receive a copy of these and other food safety tips and home care, you can call 1-888-55-GERMS.

Nancy Dell, MS, is a registered dietitian in private practice in Feeding Hills and the media representative for the Massachusetts Dietetic Association.

— ADVERTISER NEWS —



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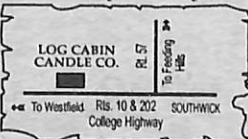
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Fitness Tips...

Progress - Keep It Moving

by Carmela A. Kirk, RN
Fitness Director, Fitness First

Progression of your program is an important part. You begin your program and it is sufficiently challenging. You continue your program and it slowly gets easier.

You are getting stronger, leaner, and healthier. Now the results start to slow down and you feel in a rut. You can continue your cardio for a little longer. That will burn some extra calories. You can increase your weights and/or repetitions and make the workout a little more challenging. This works for a while, but you cannot forget progress. You've gotten stronger. You just need a little change.

I can't say it (I should say, write it) enough! The way exercise works is that it challenges your body to do something it is difficult to do. It changes. If you get stronger, your workout needs to get stronger.

For example, if you are walking 30 minutes at 3.5 mph and have been for some time, it is probably not making you breathe much heavier or increasing your heart rate as much as it used to. Try increasing to 4.0 mph and add elevation on and off.

Be sure your heart rate is getting high enough so that it causes your respirations to significantly increase. You don't want to be OUT of breath, but you should certainly be breathing faster and

deeper than normal. If you were to use a heart rate monitor and you were exercising according to that, you would find your workout would get tougher and tougher to get that heart rate up to its target.

As far as weight training or resistance training goes, again, keep it challenging. Even if your goal is strictly toning and defining, you still need to feel the burn. Your weights need to increase, your sets need to increase, and the exercises need to change.

There are a bunch, and I mean a bunch, of options when it comes to resistance training. There are probably 10 different ways to work each muscle. Between machines, free weights, and different exercises, you should have quite a variety in your program if you've been exercising a while. We start most people on a basic full body routine. We usually start people with one or two exercises per muscle group. That needs to change, that needs to increase within about one month of consistent exercise.

If you've been doing the exact same routine for more than four weeks, change it. Add exercises, change the focus a little. Your body will only benefit and the results will be quickly apparent again.



Cecilia P. Calabrese
Attorney at Law



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Join Us For The All New "KnockOut-WorkOut"

It's Our Exciting New Aerobic Kick Boxing Class At Fitness First!



Fitness First has once again added another new energetic group exercise class that has increased in popularity Nation wide.

Our new kick boxing class is called "KnockOut WorkOut"!

A recent survey of our members say they absolutely love it!

It's a combination of boxing skills along with the kicks and discipline of Martial Arts.

Learn basic punches, blocks, and kicks that makes this a terrific aerobic workout!

It's both challenging and fun, but a class both men and women can do!

Holiday Special! 4 weeks for ONLY \$49!

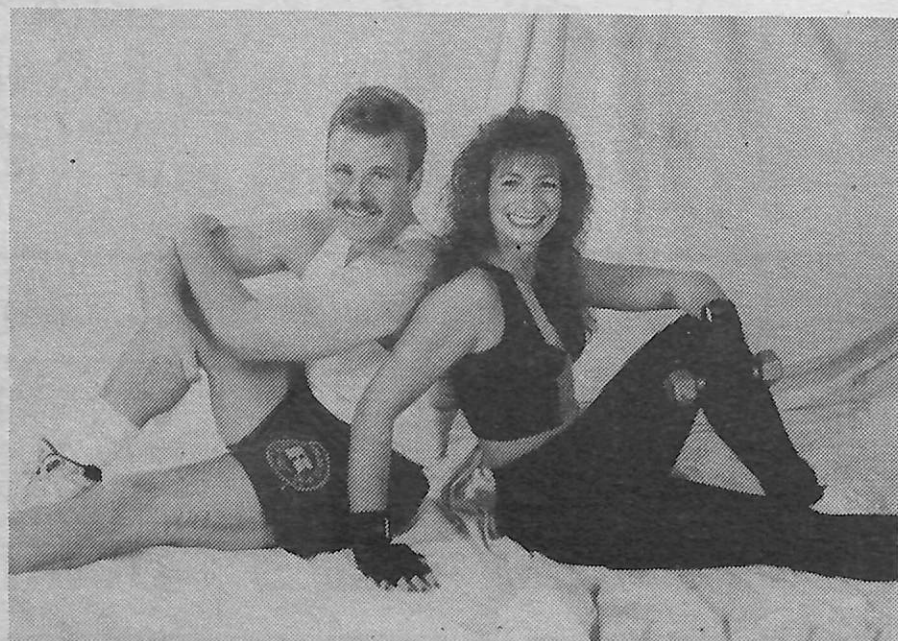


Give a gift certificate to a friend or join yourself!

Plenty of Gift Certificates are available for gift giving!

Offer ends December 31, 1998.

Start getting into shape NOW for the holidays and for the New Year ahead by working out at the area's one and only health club - Fitness First!



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Cartons - \$18.49 Plus Tax

Winston

Cartons - \$2.50 Off

Packs - 25¢ Off

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Packs - 25¢ Off

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Camel Menthol & Lt. Menthol - **Buy 2, Get 1 Free**

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Parliament Lt. Box & Lt. Menthol Box - **Buy 2, Get 1 Free**

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Virginia Slims Filters, Lts., Menthol, Menthol Lts. - **Buy 2, Get 1 Free**

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\$2.69 Lb.

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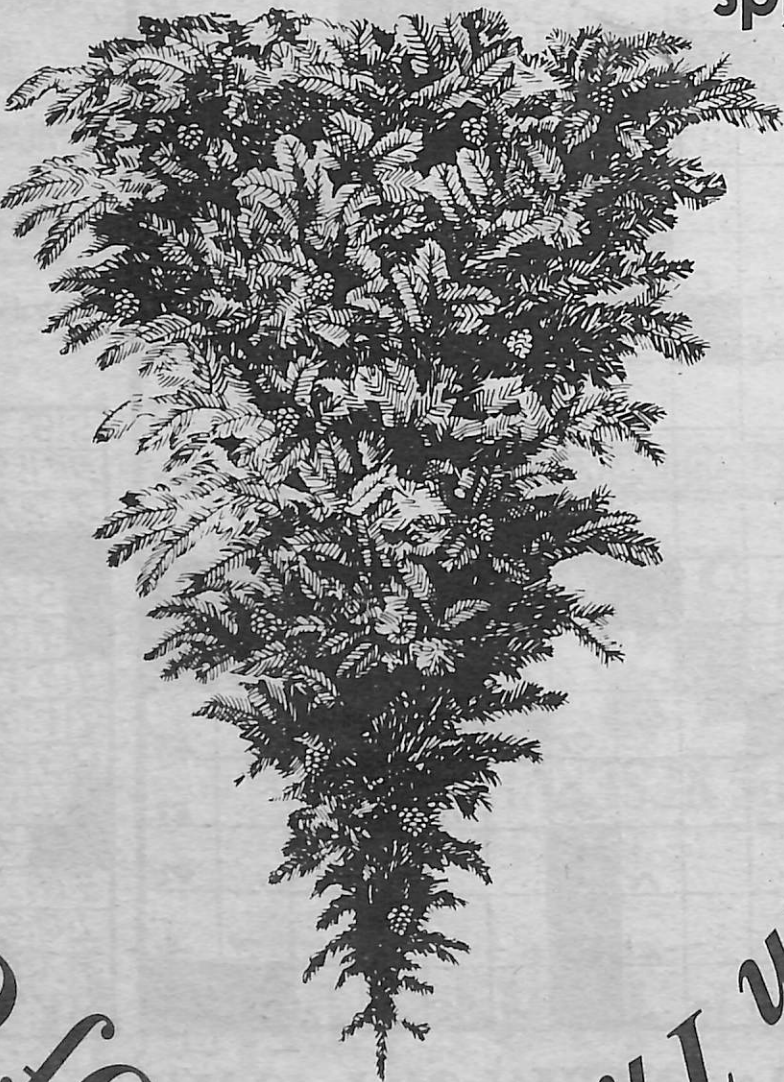
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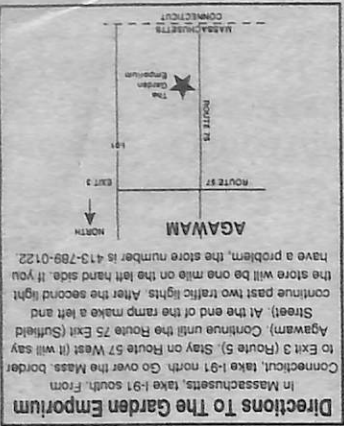
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3RD PRIZE
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Limit One Entry Per Family • Please Register In Person • No Purchase Necessary

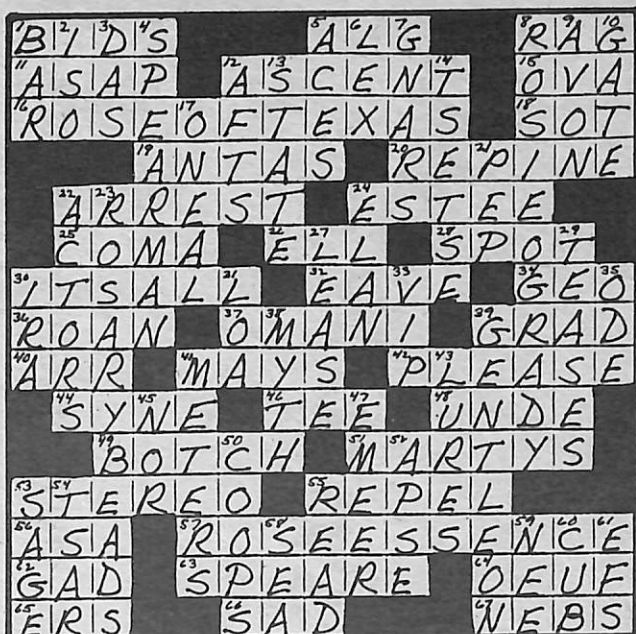


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Arts

Last Week's Solution...



ACROSS

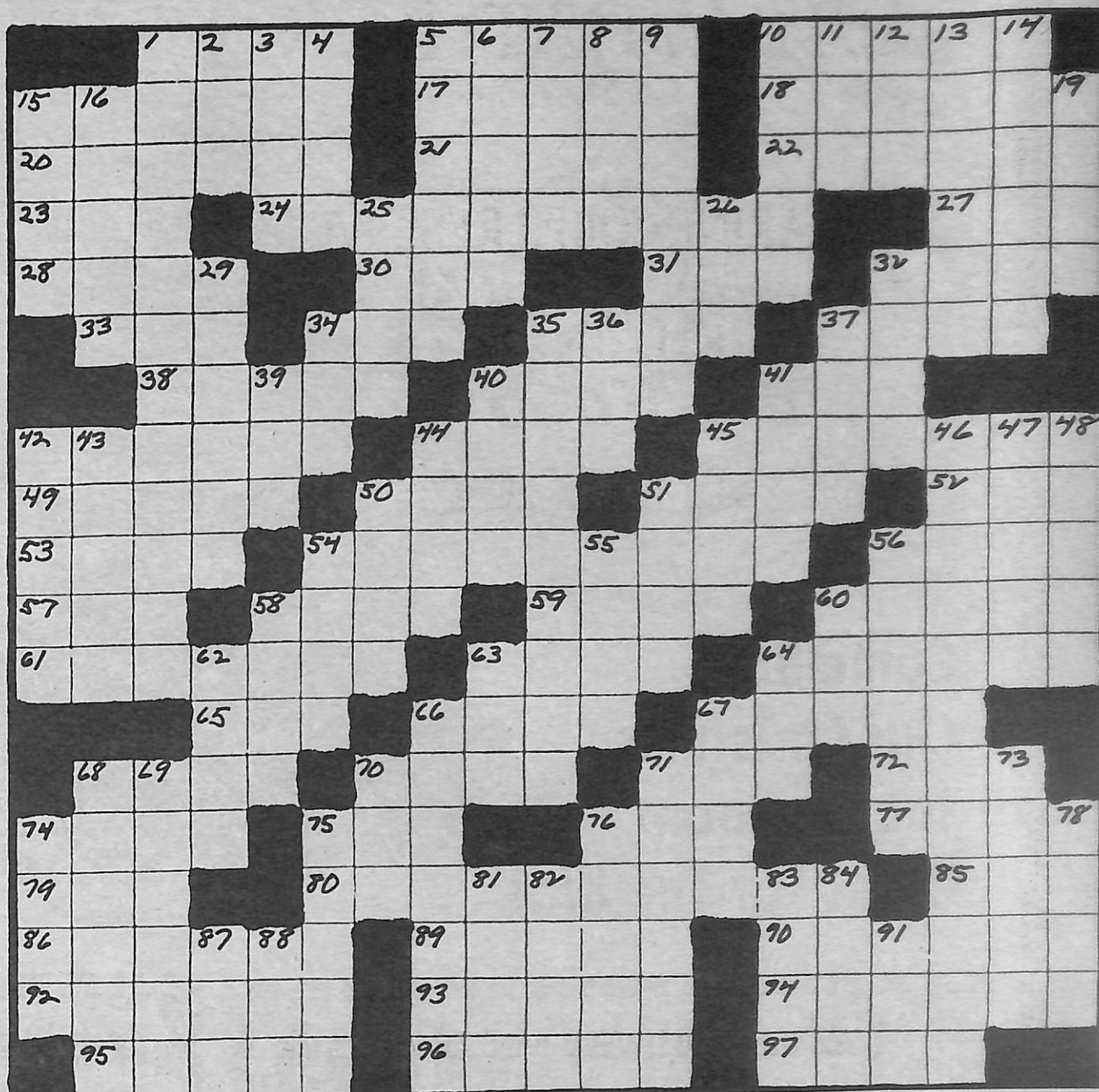
- 1 "That's —" (settled)
- 5 Begin
- 10 Prize
- 15 Pointed instrument
- 17 Patton's specialty
- 18 Blows up
- 20 One end of a pencil
- 21 Patriot Silas
- 22 Rue
- 23 Repel
- 24 Business assets
- 27 Medieval money
- 28 In the thick of
- 30 Was in the forefront
- 31 Bikini part
- 32 Like "The Three Stooges"
- 33 Chemical suffix
- 34 Pale
- 35 Story
- 37 Like Hubbard's cupboard
- 38 Sound of pain
- 40 Soft cheese
- 41 Golf's Crenshaw
- 42 Fast river water
- 44 Coal locale
- 45 Made welcome
- 49 Living area
- 50 Take care of oneself
- 51 N. African port
- 52 Sandpiper
- 53 "A — in point"
- 54 Merchant
- 56 Roy's lady
- 57 Boston time zone
- 58 Martini additive
- 59 Herbie of music
- 60 Gave into
- 61 Make like new
- 63 They followed a star
- 64 Certain runners
- 65 Sea eagle
- 66 "I double — you"
- 67 Walks the surf
- 68 Injure
- 70 Hide partner
- 71 "Oh — can you see..."
- 72 "Pro —"
- 74 Indian queen
- 75 Thus (Latin)
- 76 Funny Buttons
- 77 School subject
- 79 First or foreign follower
- 80 U.M.W. or U.A.W.
- 85 "Wade vs —"
- 86 Sage hen
- 89 Dishearten
- 90 Polling booth pullers
- 92 14 line poem
- 93 Portion of a box score
- 94 Chatters
- 95 Accomplishments
- 96 Unreadable face
- 97 Long time periods

DOWN

- 1 Western malls of yore?
- 2 Towel word

- 3 Help a yegg
- 4 Hawaii once
- 5 Put "down in the dumps"
- 6 Cornered in a way
- 7 "— For All Seasons"
- 8 Barrett
- 9 Shiver
- 10 "Vice —" (on the contrary)
- 11 Land measure
- 12 Carry around
- 13 Din
- 14 Forever (poetical)
- 15 Evening in Italia
- 16 This doesn't pay
- 19 Remain
- 25 Actor Arkin
- 26 Before
- 29 Ridicule
- 32 Author Grey
- 34 "The Lady — A Tramp (Sinatra classic)"
- 35 Company identifier
- 36 Draw a bead on
- 37 "It's — a long time"
- 39 Teeny poem
- 40 Turn in the river
- 41 Type of muffin
- 42 American black snake
- 43 Humiliate
- 44 Otary
- 45 Mom's mother for short
- 46 Business spies' quest
- 47 Moray hunter
- 48 One of Capra's Mr.
- 50 Let loose
- 51 Atlanta arena
- 54 Sea bird
- 55 Wise one
- 56 Remove
- 58 Heavy wine
- 60 "El —" (Spanish hero)
- 62 Actress Garr
- 63 Ms. West
- 64 Month of flowers
- 66 Century units
- 67 Dry river bed
- 68 "The — the dog" (hangover cure)
- 69 Ruined
- 70 "Little — Echo"
- 71 Guard
- 73 Bond portrayer Roger
- 74 "From — to riches"
- 75 Lets it stand to a printer
- 76 Gab, gab, gab (2 wds.)
- 78 Monster's Loch
- 81 Pub flier
- 82 Continental prefix
- 83 Water jar
- 84 Infamous fiddler
- 87 Actress O'Connor
- 88 Matched pair
- 91 Moving truck

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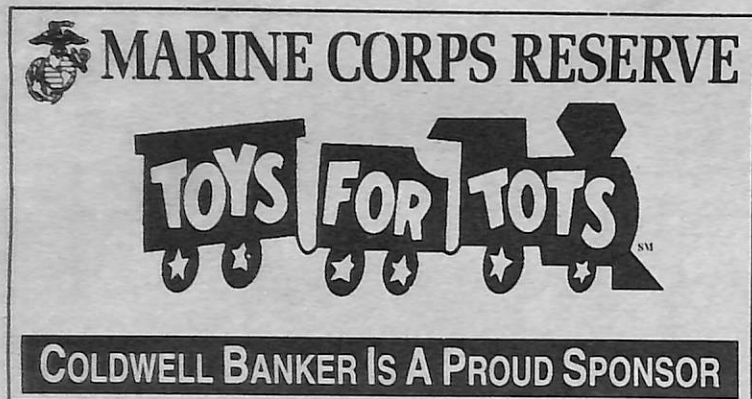
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Because of Christmas, the deadline for our next issue is Monday, December 21st, at 12:00 noon.

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Education



At Granger Elementary School, Ms. Anne Liptak's first-grade students (Room 17) recently answered the following question - "What does Santa do on the day after Christmas?"

Nicholas Boucher: "He starts to get ready for next year."

Matthew Cassie: "He sleeps for half of the day."

James Cunningham: "He starts making toys for next year."

Sarah Daglio: "He sleeps for the whole day because he's been out all night."

Victoria Fehily: "He rests."

Nicholas Gauthier: "He makes toys and rests."

Erik Goodhue: "He sits down and drinks hot cocoa."

Dmitry Gordievsky: "He feeds his reindeer."

Stefani Laflamme: "He rests."

Alyssa Leal: "He lets his reindeer eat."

Teagan Martin: "He takes a rest."

Thomas Matroni: "He goes to another place where kids want presents."

Brittany Montanez: "He checks his naughty and nice list."

Elise Psholka: "He bakes gingerbread."

Anthony Rescigno: "He feeds his reindeer."

Jonathan Russo: "He washes his shirt because all those chimneys made it black."

Cody St. Peter: "He rests."

Alexander Thomas: "He eats steak after his long journey."

Mikala Wollmershauser: "He takes a rest."

Kristopher Ziemba: "He irons his jacket and pants."



THE FIRST-GRADE STUDENTS of Ms. Anne Liptak at Granger Elementary School have provided us with some interesting answers to the following question - "What does Santa do on the day after Christmas?" Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Area Students Attain Honor Roll At Cathedral High

The following local students have attained honor roll standing at Cathedral High School in Springfield:

HONORS

Kyle Bousquet of Feeding Hills, Brian Landry of Agawam, Megan Landry of Agawam, Lauren Malone of Agawam, Michael Martin, Jr. of Feeding Hills, Monica Moriarty of Agawam, and Meredith Willett of Agawam.

HIGH HONORS

Ericc Powell of Agawam and Kelli Powell of Agawam.

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, December 21st: Pepperoni-topped pizza wedge, tossed garden salad w/dressing, chilled pears in syrup, milk.

Tuesday, December 22nd: Veal patty parmesan sandwich, seasoned green beans, nacho chips, fresh Mac apple, milk.

Wednesday, December 23rd, through Sunday, January 3rd: Christmas vacation.

(Tickets may be purchased on Monday in the elementary schools for the week. Meal price is \$1.10 daily. If paying by check, make check out to "Agawam School Lunch.")

ADVERTISER NEWS

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From AHS Guidance... Warm Fuzzies

by Judy Cohen
Agawam High School Guidance Counselor

Remember when you were a little kid sitting in third grade and the teacher stood in the front of the classroom holding a bunch of papers? Looking through the papers, she stopped, selected one, held it up for all to see, and commented on how terrific it was! She then announced to the class that you had done it!

Immediately, you felt your chest swell with pride, a warm glow came over you, and you basked in the smiles of all those around you. Inwardly, you, too, were smiling. Wow! You felt good!!!

When you went home, you couldn't wait to share the good news with your parents. With the paper in hand, you waved it at them. They enthusiastically praised you and gave the paper a place of honor on the refrigerator. For the rest of the day and night, you floated. How good you felt!!!

As you got older, the accolades lessened. Good work wasn't applauded, it was expected. But woe to you if the work was not good. Lousy work was noted ... noted with red marks on your paper, noted with disapproving glances from the teacher and friends, and noted by you who had a creeping feeling of despair.

After schooling, you entered the work place. Again, good work was expected, not praised. If you stayed late, no one praised you; but if you arrived late, you heard about it!

You completed an assignment, felt an inward glow of satisfaction, and eagerly handed it in to your boss, who accepted it, kind of muttered a thank-you, and that was it. Deflated, you walked away.

Why does praise seem to stop as we age? Believe me, it is still needed. We are still people, we still need and want those warm fuzzies. Yes, they can come internally, we can praise ourselves, but how good we feel when someone on the outside praises us.

Actually, it often makes us work harder. When we're not praised, we often feel, "Why bother? Who cares, anyway?"

It's strange. I know my husband loves me, but every once in a while I like to have him bring home some flowers ... just because. You see, even though I'm ?? years old, I still flourish with warm fuzzies. And I still get all excited when he does surprise me!

I can't count the number of times I have asked a kid in my office if his/her parents ever praise them. More often than not, the answer is no. They hear about disapproval, but not about approval. What happened to the gold stars that used to be freely given to the young?

The teenager and the adult still need those stars to blossom and grow. Do we stop petting a dog because it is older? Do we stop watering plants and exposing them to sunlight? NO!

Then why do we summarily stop giving warm fuzzies to our children and to our spouses and friends? We sometimes read about "unsung heroes," but why were they not sung about?

I suggest that we all look into our hearts and start displaying what is there. Believe it or not, the more we give, the more warm fuzzies that we dole out, the better we will feel, too.

I remember a young man who was never praised for his work. His grades were poor and his parents were upset, but even when there seemed to be a little light coming through the clouds in the name of achievement, the achievement went unnoticed.

The parents came in to talk to me. They wondered why their son didn't have that seemingly inner striving to do well. Why wasn't he achieving? I suggested to them that perhaps he wasn't praised when he did a good job, so there was no reinforcement to do well.

When we want our dog to learn new tricks, we praise him with a yummy or a pat on the head, or whatever, but he is praised. We discussed this and it was decided that every time the parents saw a glimmer of a positive action, they would reinforce it with some sort of praise.

Perhaps from time to time, a note would be written. Perhaps a token gift would be given; perhaps a warm hug and an "I love you" would be just the thing.

Time passed. One day the phone rang, and I could hear excitement emanating from the voice on the other end of the line. Success! The son was doing better and, amazingly enough, everyone was doing better.

Each person in the family was validating the other. Each person was feeling worthwhile. The young man's grades were going up. He was reveling in their pride and was feeling proud of himself, too.

Like caring for the flowers we plant in our gardens, let's all care and nourish each other with warm fuzzies so, like the flowers, we can watch each other blossom. Remember, we reap what we sow.

Best local news...

St. Mary's High School To Offer Placement Test In January For Prospective Students

St. Mary's High School in Westfield will be offering a placement test for eighth grade students who are considering enrolling in September of 1999.

The test will be held at the school, located on 27 Bartlett Street in Westfield on Saturday, January 9th at 8:30 a.m., and will conclude at 12:00 noon. Snow date is January 16th.

St. Mary's is a small, co-educational, Catholic school with students from Westfield and many of the surrounding communities. Over a period of four years, it offers its students the opportunity to follow a curriculum of traditional college

preparatory courses. According to principal Paul Romani, the placement test scores are considered, along with the student's eighth grade academic performance, in determining each student's freshman schedule.

Registration for the test is required, and a \$15 fee will be charged. Parents and guardians of prospective students are encouraged to call the school at 568-5692 for further information about the school or to register for the test. Prospective students are also invited to spend a day as part of St. Mary's High School's "Freshman for a Day" program.

Because of Christmas, the deadline for our next issue is Monday, December 21st, at 12:00 noon ... AAN!!!

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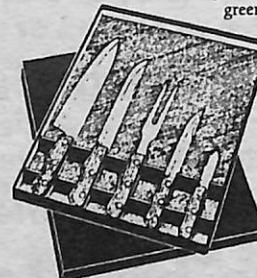
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At James Clark School...

Kindergarten Classes Learn About Penobscot Culture

by Kathy Shepard
AAN Feature Writer

Recently, there were two special presentations for the kindergarten class taught by Jane Robinson at the James Clark School. Barbara Giammarino visited to share nuggets of her cultural heritage, that of the Penobscot people. The first presentation was at 10:15 a.m. and the second was at 1:30 p.m.

Mrs. Giammarino has visited several times in previous years and allowed a glimpse of the culture of the "First People." (People who lived in this country before the contact period, when Europeans arrived.) She brought a large photo of ancestors, including her aunt, who used to take Mrs. Giammarino with her when she went to teach others about her people.

Mrs. Giammarino used to perform on her own, but is now employed by the Somers Mountain Museum on Turnpike Road in Somers, Connecticut. Her performance lasted about an hour and included some singing, dancing, and storytelling. She included hands-on activities to bring about participation.

Games made out of materials children find in their own yards, such as sticks and branches, were taught. These games are good for hand-eye coordination.

Dressed in dance regalia and accompanied by the drum and a tape of Penobscot singers (her Nation), Mrs. Giammarino presented dance patterns from her cultural heritage. Her presentation has continued to be a favorite with kindergarteners and teachers alike. Her movements captivated the children, as she illustrated an eagle, a butterfly, and the creation of the world using hoops and graceful dance steps.

A Connection With The Earth

The Indian people shared a connection with the earth, and when one of their children was misbehaving, the adult would sit the children down and tell a story that illustrated the undesirable result of the misguided behavior. If the same mistake was repeated, again they would be told to sit and listen until the young person learned.

Her people were named after the river around which they lived, and there is a spiritual connection between the people and this river. They would sing to protect the waters and keep them clean, and stories were told to their children of how all of us are related. Her people lived by the river for thousands of years. Her family lived on an island in the middle of the river called Indian Island.

By telling the stories and showing their ways, she carries on the spirit of her people and they, therefore, continue to live through her dancing and teaching and creativity.

"When an animal was killed, no part of the animal was wasted," Barbara explained. "Its toenails were used for rattles, its skin for drums, rugs, or fur." The Indian people lived close to the land, before there were stores, and they had to make everything, including their bowls and knives and tools to work the stones.

Though there may not have been much choice, these ways seem intriguing and earthwise, and the children were charmed and excited.

"I share with the children their connection to the ecosystem and the web of life, and that all parts of the universe are important. They learned how to listen to the voices of nature," Mrs. Giammarino noted.

Mrs. Robinson has invited Mrs. Giammarino back for several years and seemed to enjoy the demonstration as much as the kindergarteners. It is mysterious yet fun, respectful yet exciting, as the drum beat pervades the sound of song in Penobscot. Mrs. Giammarino made her own dress of deerskin, and her baby carrier, which she made for her own children, is lined with rabbit fur and seems in perfect condition.

Mrs. Giammarino reminded the kindergarteners that Indians valued children greatly because they "remind us to listen to the snow." She had several beautiful furs, including a fox, a racoon (which were considered magical because of their masks), a skunk, a bear, and a coyote. Games were played after the lessons, including a ring-toss (using hoops of woods), a basketball-type game tossing tips of trees into a handmade basket, a dart-like game aiming and throwing corn cobs through a standing hoop, and other variations of entertainment.

Circle Of Life

At this point, the class formed the circle of life, with all holding hands and dancing in a circle around hoops placed in the center. Next, the native dancing began, during which Mrs. Giammarino truly gave the illusion at times of one of the winged, and of the making of the world.

Besides the winged creatures, their animal friends were called the "four-legged ones."

With a taste of history, anthropology, ecology, and sheer enjoyment, this program will surely grace the walls of the kindergarten again. Mrs. Giammarino taught the class how to say "thank you" in the Indian language, and after she thanked them, they thanked her. As she was leaving, a few of the little ones called out "good-bye" and several others could be heard calling out the native words for thank you: "WILEWUNI!"



BARBARA GIAMMARINO recently visited two kindergarten classes at James Clark School. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



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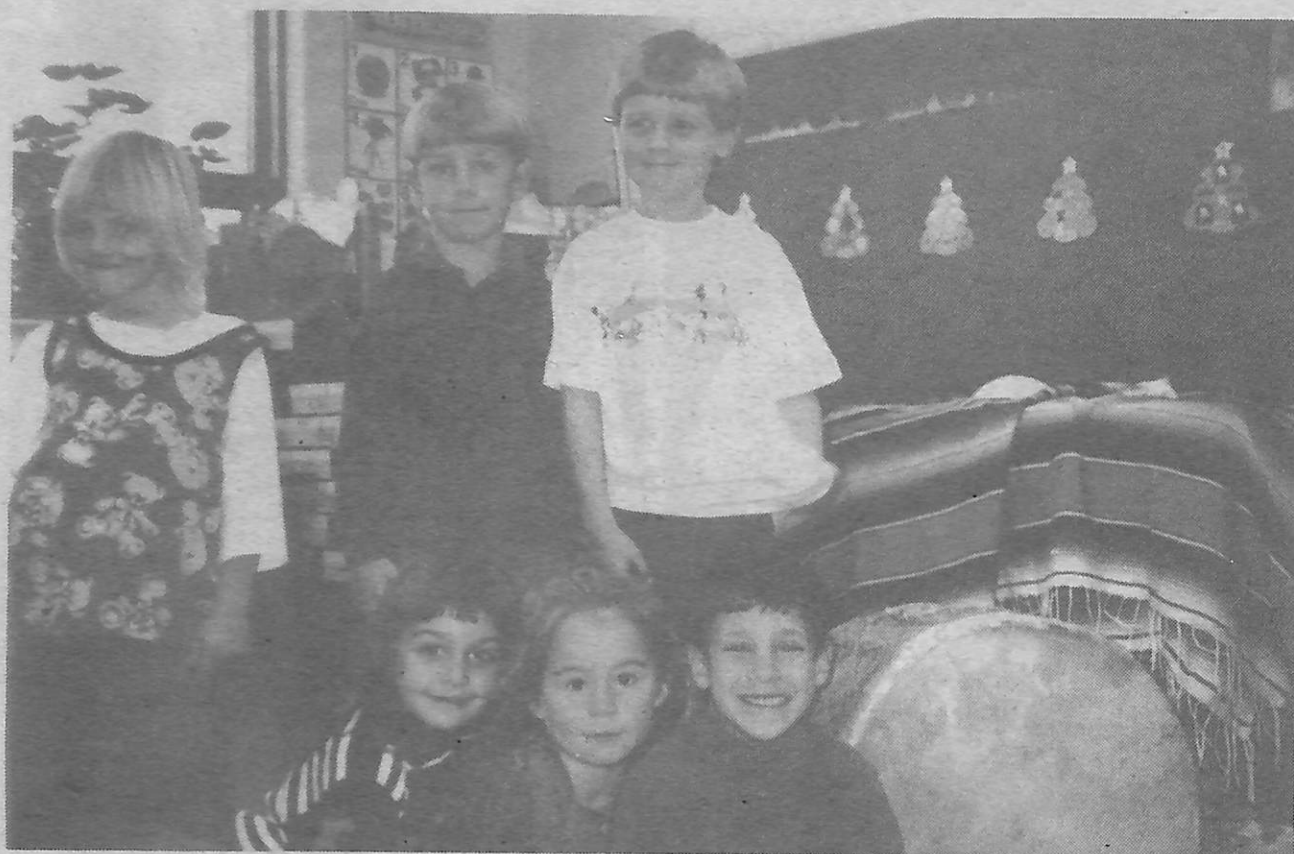
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Experiencing A Bit Of Indian Culture...



THESE KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS enjoyed learning about Penobscot Indians from Barbara Giammarino. Back row: Sara Blake, DJ Koulgeorge, and Jess Conklin. Front row: Amie Fydenkevez, Mari LeClerc, and Anthony Nitri. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.



MRS. JANE ROBINSON with four of her kindergarten students — Jeffrey Dziardziel, Carly Michel, Hannah Hellstein, and Nicholas Merryman — during Barbara Giammarino's presentation. Advertiser News photo by Kathy Shepard.

Savings Bond Winner



MEGHAN KELLY, a student at Agawam Junior High School, recently won a \$50 savings bond. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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Bay Path College To Offer Degree In Computer Info. Tech.

Bay Path College in Longmeadow will offer a bachelor's degree program for women in Computer Information Technology, the first program of its kind to be offered by a women's college in New England.

The program, which received approval from the Board of Higher Education of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recently, is expected to help address the nation's shortage (about 346,000 professionals this year) of high-tech workers.

The bachelor's degree program at Bay Path College will prepare computer information technologists, an emerging profession in which the primary responsibility is to "fit" the right computing needs to the environment within an enterprise. Applications for enrollment in the fall of 1999 are now being accepted.

Bay Path College president Dr. Carol A. Leary says, "This is a field of incredible possibilities for women and we are proud of the unique program we have developed. Not only will our students have the skills to assist a variety of organizations in the creative and efficient use of technology, perhaps more important, our program teaches students how to adapt to this ever-changing field and be prepared for those changes."

Dr. Alvin Chai, director of the new Computer Information Technology program at Bay Path, said, "The beauty of the computer information technologist is that this professional is able to work at the crossroads of several disciplines and technologies, including computer hardware/software, telecommunications, Internet and Web technology, business information systems, information analysis, graphics and multimedia, and user support. Combine a major in this field with a minor, for example, in business, and the career path can be fulfilling throughout one's professional life and offer the relevance that so many women seek. Imagine the broad range of interests that can be satisfied through such positions as systems analyst and programmer analyst, database administrator, web developer, business analyst, or software and end user support specialist."

Specialties such as these will become increasingly important to business in global marketplace, particularly as the power of electronic commerce comes of age. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the computer and data processing services industry ranks number one on the list of the Top 10 Industries with the Fastest Employment Growth predicted through the year 2006.

Having a program such as this provided through a women's college creates ample opportunities for women to network with and learn from the women "pioneers" in technology of today with a goal of understanding and building upon their successes.

Many more such pioneers will be needed in the Information Age, not only to fill the need for skilled professionals, but also to ensure that employers will have sufficient women present within its ranks. Perhaps of greater significance is the importance of ensuring that a woman's point of view, which has been demonstrated to yield many societal benefits, can flourish in this emerging field as it has in others.

Additional information about this new program, the professional needs in the labor force that it will fill, or other aspects of computer information technology may be obtained through interviews with Dr. Alvin Chai, director of computer information technology at Bay Path College or Dr. Carol A. Leary, president of Bay Path College. To arrange an interview, contact Barbara Campanella, dean of communication and college relations at Bay Path College at 413-565-1320 or 413-786-4033 (home).

New Year's Eve Prog. For Kids At Agawam Library

Agawam and Feeding Hills youngsters aged four and up are invited to join the Agawam Public Library on Thursday, December 31st, from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. to celebrate the new year.

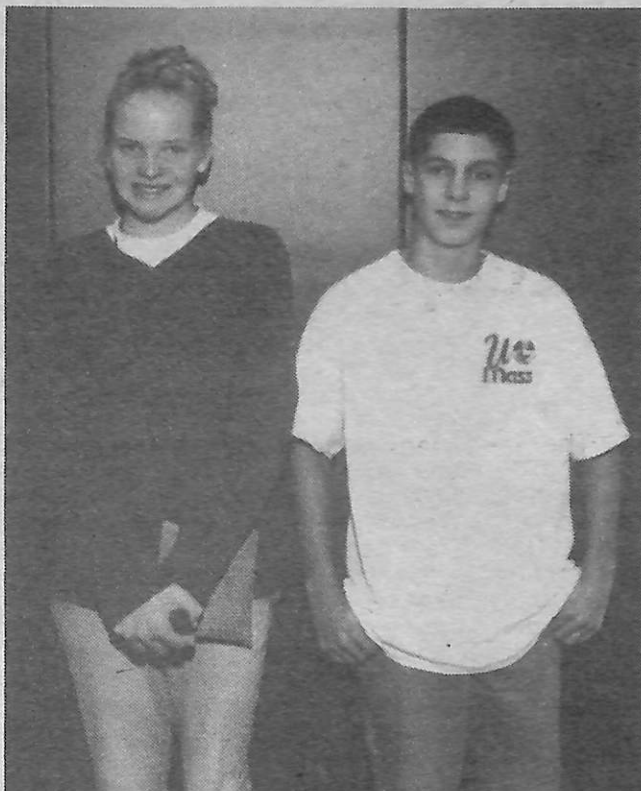
The party will include a craft, refreshments, and a New Year's cheer at noon. A party favor will be provided for each child by a very special guest!

REGISTER BY DECEMBER 29th, BY VISITING THE LIBRARY OR CALLING 789-1550.

* * *

For all the school news, you turn our pages each and every week ... AAN!!!

Noted Phys. Ed. Students At The Junior High



THESE STUDENTS WERE NAMED as the "Physical Education Students of the Month" for November at Agawam Junior High School. IN LEFT PHOTO: seventh-graders Tory Lyons and Steve Forni. IN RIGHT PHOTO: eighth-graders Chris Malloy and Vicky Taylor.

Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

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Sports

Wrestling Preview...

As Usual, AHS Wrestling A Top Gun In WMass

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The 1998-99 wrestling season will be a major challenge for the Agawam High School wrestling team. Traditionally the best in the business in these parts (11 Western Mass. titles, 1987-1996, 1998, plus two State crowns, 1988 and 1995), they will be severely tested.

Coach Phil Tomkiel, who is going into his 25th year at the helm, will be missing some big guns from last year's Western Mass. champions. Out of their eight All-Western Massachusetts champions on that team, the Brownies have lost five, including two State champions.

They will have three All-Western Mass. kids coming back: junior **Dave Moore** (112), senior **Mark Engleman** (145), and senior **Adam Blair** (152).

"We'll build our team around them. We have eight to nine returning seniors who will fit into our other weight classes," Tomkiel said. He knows the champions will wrestle at their rarified level. He feels others have the ability to complement them.

He listed the kids he hopes will step up: senior **Rob Creanza** (119), senior **Ryan Gamache** (130), senior **Chris Wayte** (135), junior **Matt Quirk** (140), and senior **Scott Murphy** (160). Those weight classes are tough in high school wrestling.

"We get into the upper weight classes and it gets even tougher," the coach said. He is referring to the kids who are both big and strong. "Up there you have to have experience, because if someone goes down on top of you, it is a battle to escape," Tomkiel admitted.

His choice for the 171's will be **John Weinle**, a senior with experience. Senior **Justin Petrangelo** will be at 189. Petrangelo also has experience. Next is the 215-pound class. Football standout **Eric Pederson** will probably get his start there.

SEE WRESTLING - Page 42...

Girls' Basketball Preview...

Maloni, Cote, & Bertone-Gross Keep AHS On High Ground!

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The last memory most of us have of the 1997-1998 Agawam High girls' basketball team was their 55-50 upset loss to West Springfield High in the Western Mass. Division I semi-finals up at UMass last February.

It stuck in the craw of many of the Brownie faithful because they easily handled the Terriers twice during the regular season, 61-44 and 71-55. The end of that season was supposed to be an Agawam final between Minnechaug Regional (the eventual Western Mass. champs and State champions) and Agawam. The two teams had split their regular-season series, one game apiece.

Well, that's water under a bridge best forgotten. It's a new season and Agawam will have a new look. Gone from the 19-2 team of last year is point guard Kristen Patterson, who ran the show for four years and along the way was named to four All-Western Mass. teams, picked up a slew of MVP awards, and joined the Brownie 1,000-point club (1,105 total). Patterson also led the team to either outright ownership or a share of the Valley Wheel title for four straight years. She's now applying her talents at American International College as a freshman on the women's varsity.

Also gone is Amber Conte (Coach Lou Conte's daughter), one of the most feared three-point shooters in Western Mass. and a ferocious defender. She is now playing at Suffolk University in Boston.

Coach Conte (216 career wins), who will enter his 13th season, has his work cut out for him, although few around the WMass. basketball world will offer him any sympathy.

"It's no question we'll miss both of them. Kristen was the complete package, both offensively and defensively. She was the heart of our up-tempo style. Amber's ability to drain the three kept defenses honest and open," he said.

What's a coach to do in this new, post-Patterson era? "We may have to slow things down

a bit. A half-court offense may be the way to go now," he noted, although returning are three starters from last year, including one of the region's marquee performers.

Brownies' Offense Will Need Scorers...

That offense will need some scorers to match last year's 57 points a game pace. Of course, they have one of the best of the bunch — All-Western Mass. shooting guard Barbara Maloni. Last year, she also joined the 1,000-point club and will start this season with 1,113. The senior will also bring a 21.2 ppg average onto the court.

"Barbara benefitted from Kristen's ability to get her the ball in the transition game," Conte noted. "We'll probably ask her to run the offense on occasion. She'll also have to keep her average up," he added.

Another key this year will be the play of 6'2" center Pia Bertone-Gross. "Pia runs the floor well. She plays defense and can rebound," Conte said of the senior. He does want her to score more. Last year, she managed 8.9 points a game.

This time around, they'll most likely need 12 to 15 points an outing from her. Teams with dominating front-court players usually do very well in the tough Valley Wheel. Minnechaug had All-American Jillian Danker. West Springfield had Coleen McCaffrey. Bertone-Gross dominates at times. She will have to step up with consistency this year.

Senior Melissa Cote, a veteran -almost 6' forward, is formidable on defense and can put the ball in the hole when called upon to do so (7.6 ppg). She had 25 against Holyoke and 19 in the Comp game last season. She may be the key to the whole thing this year. If she averages in double figures (12 to 15) consistently, watch the Brownie engine dominate again.

SEE HIGH GROUND - Page 42...

Ready, Willing, And Able For The "Winter Campaign"...



THE AGAWAM HIGH 1998-1999 Winter Sports coaches, captains, and Athletic Director Kathleen McSweeney (far left) take time out for a group photo on "Media Day." Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

AHS WRESTLING - from Page 41...

along with junior **Jerry Graves**. That class rises all the way up to the 275's. Both Pederson and Graves have been there. In the 275's, senior **Asbel Nunez**, who has experience in that weight class, may get a shot.

Practices Have Been Good...

The coach has said that the practices have been good and in the tradition of Agawam High wrestling, which means boot camp in the humid confines of the number two gym. He feels the first, big test of the team will come at the annual Agawam High Holiday Tournament on December 29th. "We'll have some of the best teams from all over Western Massachusetts at that one," he noted.

"We've always done well because we always worked hard. Western Massachusetts wrestling has a statewide reputation. This year, Ludlow, West Springfield, Central, and others will keep up our tradition. Hopefully, we'll be in the mix, too. However, this might be the year, besides skill, we'll need a bit of luck to remain there."

The coach will retire at the end of the season. (Every championship you read about at the beginning of this article also pertains to him.) In Agawam, where so many good coaches are leaving, it was another blow. "I think I knew it was time to go when I realized how much time I'd spent as a coach. My wife and I sat down and talked about it. Even though I love the sport, I was tired," he said.

Tomkiel is a member of the Massachusetts Wrestling Coaches Hall of Fame, and two years ago was named as the National Coaches Association Wrestling Coach of the Year. He has won almost 300 matches. What more can a man do?

"My daughter is getting married next February 14th. That is just after the Western Mass. Tournament. Will I have a voice left when I go to her wedding? My family comes first."

He also noted that in his mid 40's, life is far from over. "I would like to go back to school and get my master's in physical education. I've been looking into that," he smiled.



DAVE MOORE is the third All-Western Mass. performer returning to Agawam High wrestling in 1998-1999. Advertiser News photo by Dave Rollins.

HIGH GROUND - from Page 41..

Their defense was as formidable last year as their offense. The press drove other teams crazy and allowed only 36.9 points a game. Patterson, Maloni, and Conte led the way in that department. The coach admitted their strategy without the ball may have to be altered a bit — meeting the foe at half-court and going from there.

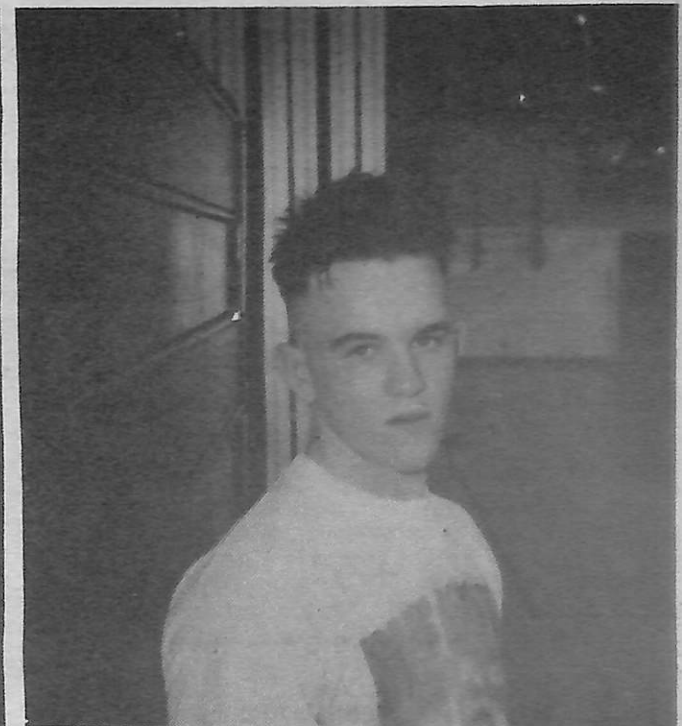
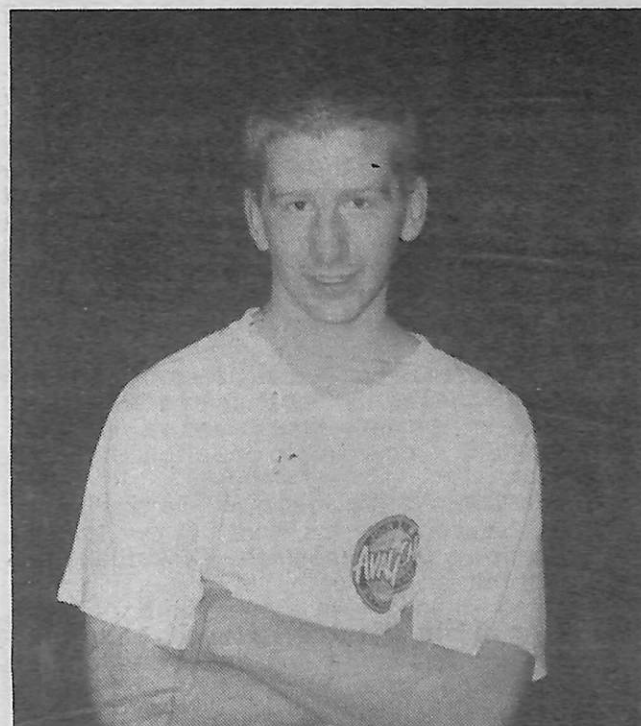
The big problem, though will be at point guard. Junior returnee Sheri Benton will get a look, as well as returning junior Kate Shannon. Both received valuable playing experience last year.

One kid who could figure in is sophomore power forward Laura Bucalo. She got playing time in every game as a freshman last year. Her rebounding strength and defense helped then. They'll certainly help this time around.

"The Valley Wheel is the strongest league in Western Massachusetts as far as I'm concerned. Minnechaug, Longmeadow, and Amherst are three teams that will shake things up. We'll have tough battles against them," Conte smiled. Then he added, "It will be an interesting season for us."



THE 1998-1999 AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL WRESTLING TEAM, the defending Western Mass. Division I champs. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



TWO OF THE STARS RETURNING TO Agawam High wrestling this winter are All-Western Mass. performers **Adam Blair** (left) and **Mark Engleman**. Advertiser News photos by Dave Rollins.



MEMBERS OF LAST YEAR'S AGAWAM HIGH girls' varsity basketball team gather around All-Western Mass. guard **Barbara Maloni** (center of photo) after she scored her 1000th point. photo courtesy of Mary Ann Gazillo.

NO ONE covers all the hometown sports like DAVE ROLLINS each week. Dave is another reason why you turn our pages. ADVERTISER NEWS. Subscribe today!!!!

Agawam High's Winter Athletic Schedule

WRESTLING

Coach: Phil Tomkiel

December 16th (presstime): Cathedral - away, 7:00.
 December 19th: Milford Tournament - away, all day.
 December 23rd: Westfield - away, 7:30.
 December 29th: Holiday Tournament - home, all day.
 January 2nd: Durfee Tournament - away, all day.
 January 6th: Minnechaug - away, 7:00.
 January 13th: Central - home, 7:00.
 January 16th: Putnam/Commerce - away, 12:00 (at Putnam).
 January 21st: Amherst - home, 7:00.
 January 23rd: Longmeadow - away, 1:00.
 January 27th: West Springfield - home, 6:00/7:00.
 January 30th: Brockton - away, 10:00.
 February 3rd: Ludlow - home, 7:00.
 February 12th-13th: Western Mass. Tournament at Central.
 February 19th-20th: State Division I Tournament (TBA).
 February 26th-27th: All-State Tournament.

ICE HOCKEY

Coach: Fran Pycko

Assistant Coach: John Cirelli

December 17th: Minnechaug - home, 8:00 (Olympia).
 December 19th: Holyoke - home, 1:00 (Olympia).
 December 23rd: Pittsfield - away, 6:30 (Boys/Girls Club).
 December 26th: Ludlow - away, 3:00 (Olympia).
 December 28th: Chicopee Comp - away, 8:30 (Fitzpatrick).
 December 30th: Mt. Greylock - away, 2:30 (Williams College).
 January 2nd: Longmeadow - away, 3:00 (Olympia).
 January 6th: Holyoke - away, 8:30 (Fitzpatrick).
 January 7th: Greenfield - home, 6:00 (Olympia).
 January 14th: East Longmeadow - home, 4:00 (Olympia).
 January 16th: Chicopee - home, 2:00 (Olympia).
 January 19th: Taconic - home, 6:00 (Olympia).
 January 23rd: Greenfield - away, 4:00 (Greenfield).
 January 25th: Westfield - away, 8:30 (Fitzpatrick).
 January 28th: Chicopee Comp - home, 4:00 (Olympia).
 February 2nd: Amherst - home, 4:00 (Olympia).
 February 8th: Chicopee - away, 6:30 (Fitzpatrick).
 February 12th: Amherst - away, 6:00 (Orr).
 February 16th: East Longmeadow - away, 8:00 (Olympia).
 February 20th: West Springfield - home, 3:00 (Olympia).

SWIMMING

Coach: Kim Scofield

Assistant Coach/Diving: Kevin Smith

December 18th: Minnechaug - away, 3:30.
 January 5th: Amherst - home, 4:00.
 January 8th: Palmer - home, 4:30.
 January 12th: Cathedral - away, 4:00.
 January 15th: Holyoke - away, 3:30.

January 20th: Turners Falls - away, 4:00.

January 22nd: Monson - home, 4:00.

January 26th: Chicopee - home, 4:00.

January 29th: Belchertown - away, 4:00.

February 2nd: Sci-Tech - home, 5:00.

February 5th: Easthampton - home, 4:00.

February 9th: Holyoke Catholic - away, 4:00.

BOYS' BASKETBALL

Varsity Coach: Gary Grumoli

JV Coach: TBA

December 15th (presstime): Putnam - away, 6:00/7:30.

December 21st: Greenfield - home, 6:00/7:30.

December 23rd: Chicopee Comp - away, 6:00/7:30.

December 28th: Ludlow - home, 1:00/2:30.

December 30th: Cathedral - home, 5:00/6:30.

January 5th: Central - away, 6:00/7:30.

January 8th: Commerce - home, 6:00/7:30.

January 12th: Holyoke - away, 6:30/8:00.

January 14th: Science & Tech - away, 6:00/7:30.

January 19th: Westfield - home, 6:00/7:30.

January 20th: West Springfield - home, 6:30/8:00.

January 22nd: Northampton - away, 6:00/7:30.

January 26th: Longmeadow - away, 6:15/7:45.

January 29th: Chicopee - home, 6:00/7:30.

February 2nd: Amherst - home, 6:00/7:30.

February 4th: Westfield - away, 6:00/7:30.

February 10th: Northampton - home, 6:00/7:30.

February 12th: Longmeadow - home, 6:00/7:30.

February 16th: Chicopee - away, 6:00/7:30.

February 18th: Amherst - away, 6:00/7:30.

GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Varsity Coach: Lou Conte

JV Coach: Karen Patterson

December 18th: Northampton - home, 6:00/7:30.

December 21st: Monument Mt. - away, TBA (V).

December 21st: Longmeadow - home, 3:00.

December 23rd: Monument Mt. - away, TBA (V).

December 28th: Amherst - home, 5:00/6:30.

December 30th: Chicopee - home, 1:00/2:30.

January 2nd: Taconic - home, 11:00/12:30.

January 5th: Minnechaug - away, 6:00/7:30.

January 8th: Holyoke - away, 5:30/7:00.

January 12th: Longmeadow - home, 5:30/7:00.

January 15th: West Springfield - away, 6:00/7:30.

January 18th: Science & Tech - away, 12:00/1:30.

January 20th: Cathedral - home, 3:15/4:45.

January 26th: Westfield - home, 6:00/7:30.

February 2nd: Chicopee Comp - home, 3:00/4:30.

February 5th: Amherst - away, 3:30/5:00.

February 9th: Minnechaug - home, 6:00/7:30.

February 11th: Central - away, 6:00/7:30.

February 16th: Longmeadow - away, 6:00/7:30.

February 18th: West Springfield - home, 5:00/6:30.

SKIING

Coaches: Jim Graveline and Glenn Olson

January 7th: Berkshire East, 4:45.

January 12th: Berkshire East, 4:45.

January 14th: Berkshire East, 4:45.

January 21st: Berkshire East, 4:45.

January 28th: Berkshire East, 4:45.

February 2nd: Berkshire East, 4:45.

February 4th: Berkshire East, 4:45.

February 9th: Individuals.

February 11th: Snow Date Individuals.

FRESHMAN GIRLS' BASKETBALL

Coach: Lynda Kunasek

December 18th: Central - home, 3:00.

December 23rd: Sci Tech. - home, 4:45.

December 28th: Amherst - away, 11:00.

December 30th: Chicopee - away, 11:00.

January 5th: Minnechaug - home, 3:15.

January 8th: Holyoke - home, 4:30.

January 12th: Longmeadow - away, 3:30.

January 15th: West Springfield - home, 3:00.

January 18th: Science & Tech - home, 11:00.

January 20th: Cathedral - away, 3:30.

January 26th: Westfield - away, 3:30.

January 29th: Ludlow - away, 3:30.

February 2nd: Chicopee Comp - away, 3:30.

February 5th: Amherst - home, 3:45.

February 9th: Minnechaug - away, 3:30.

February 12th: Central - home, 3:00.

February 18th: West Springfield - away, 1:00.

FRESHMAN BOYS' BASKETBALL

Coach: TBA

December 15th (presstime): Putnam - home, 4:45.

December 21st: Dean Tech - away, 4:30.

December 23rd: Chicopee Comp - home, 3:00.

December 28th: Ludlow - away, 1:00.

December 30th: Cathedral - away, 4:00.

January 5th: Central - home, 4:45.

January 8th: Commerce - away, 3:00.

January 12th: Holyoke - home, 3:15.

January 15th: Science & Tech - home, 4:30.

January 19th: Westfield - away, 4:00.

January 22nd: Northampton - home, 3:30.

January 26th: Longmeadow - home, 3:15.

January 29th: Chicopee - away, 3:30.

February 2nd: Amherst - away, 3:30.

February 4th: Westfield - home, 3:00.

February 10th: Northampton - away, 3:30.

February 12th: Longmeadow - away, 4:30.

February 16th: Chicopee - home, 11:00.

February 18th: Amherst - home, 11:00.

Boys' Basketball Preview...

Brownie Boys Hoping To Rebuild, Improve In 1998-1999 Winter

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High School boys' basketball team is a work-in-progress. Last year, they finished up at 4-14 and 1-7 in the run-and-gun Valley Wheel. They are still in the Wheel and the challenge is there.

Third-year Coach Gary Grumoli, who took the club to the playoffs with a 12-9 record in 1996, took a look at his 1998-1999 club. "We will center things around three kids: center Dave Strole and forwards Marc Pedraza and Matt Albano."

Strole will be the key. The 6'4" senior came on strong as a junior. Last year was his first on the varsity. He had only 29 points in their first nine games. Then, in the second half of the campaign, he stepped it up with 109 points and a 12.1 average, including a 22-point performance against a tough Commerce team. "Dave is getting better all the time," Grumoli noted.

Pedraza is also a senior and a three-year varsity veteran. The six-foot forward can run the floor with anybody, is tough down low, and plays an in-your-face brand of defense (which fits in well in the Wheel).

Albano, a six-foot forward, is another veteran. He is a tough rebounder who plays defense.

"We'll push the ball up the floor and run when we can," Grumoli said. "On defense, we'll change up as best we can, with man-to-man, zone, and a press. We all know defense wins games, and we do have kids who can play defense."

Grumoli's Main Concern...

His main concern is the bench. There is not a lot of experience in that department. "They've been working hard and hopefully learning fast. They will have to step up."

He mentioned senior point guard Dave Federico, who came to the varsity halfway through last season. "He's shooter and a leader who can run an offense."

The team took two big hits over the off-season. Forward Brian Gallagher won't play because of his dislocated shoulder. Junior guard Brian St. Jean decided not to come out for the team. "They are quality kids and we'll miss them," Grumoli admitted.

The coach feels the key this year will be their shooting percentage in a league of shooters. Last year, he noted that a lot of playground basketball went on in the Wheel.

"If we can be more consistent night in and night out and match-up in the running game, we'll be okay," he said.

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AHS Boys Give Good Effort But Fall Short To Putman In Hoop Opener

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Putnam Vocational basketball Beavers dangled the carrot in front of Agawam High Tuesday night before coming away with a 61-50 win in the season opener for both schoolboy teams. However, the score for most of the way was much closer than the final.

Both clubs were coming off disappointing seasons. Putnam had only two wins last year. Agawam had twice that number. So a victory would get either program off on the right foot.

As is usually the case in high school hoops around here, things started off up-tempo and stayed that way for the duration.

Agawam Coach Gary Grumoli admitted that maybe his kids got a little tired at the end when they were clawing their way towards a lead. Both clubs matched up well and started off in man-to-man defenses. It was obvious nerves came into play early. That was evident from the number of bricks put up by the shooters.

Agawam led 8-2 at the 11:17 mark. Things were getting wild and wooly, though. There were seven minutes gone when Putnam pulled ahead, 13-11. Part of the surge had to do with their defense. At that point they had six blocked shots and were generally controlling the tempo of the game down low — a place the Brownies like to go.

Agawam, down 15-12, tried a match-up zone with 6:37 left, but quickly dumped that when Putnam increased its lead to 22-16 when 4:07 to go. Despite the fact that the Beavers would end the first half with eight blocks and 13 for the game, the Brownies refused to be intimidated in the paint.

They continued to pound underneath behind center Dave Strole (12 points) and managed to reduce the margin to 27-22 at the half.

Things Didn't Slow Down In The Second Half...

There was no chance either team was going to slow things down in the second half, and they didn't. Despite some tough man-to-man defense by the Brownies, Putnam went up 31-22 at the 14:07 mark. Five Agawam points, highlighted by a Joe DiVirgilio (23 points) three-pointer, made it 31-27. Strole and Matt Albano were doubling on defense in the paint.

Despite the efforts, Putnam had momentum on its side, not to mention their fans, who were yelling loud enough to be heard back in Agawam. At the 11:35 mark and the Beavers up 35-27, Grumoli called a time-out to stop old "Mo" and quiet the

crowd.

It seemed to work. The Brownies pressed on defense and some timely pops by DiVirgilio saw Agawam reduce the deficit to 37-33 with 9:55 left.

A DiVirgilio drive down the lane at 8:04 saw Agawam cut the lead to 39-36. Marc Pedraza (four points) got the call at 7:25 on a short jumper and it was suddenly 39-38, Beavers. Two Agawam turnovers (the locals would have 16 in the game and nine in the second half), however, were converted by Putnam, which went up 43-38 with 6:47 left.

The Brownies fought back, going after the carrot. Strole got two. DiVirgilio drained his second trey from the right point and Agawam was back within one, 45-44 with 4:25 left.

Putnam came back on two free throws and a jumper to go up 49-44 with 3:30 on the clock. Another Agawam turnover saw the Beavers take a 51-44 lead at the 3:10 mark. DiVirgilio drained a deuce and went 1-2 from the line a few moments later to make it 51-47, Putnam. There was 1:58 left to play.

Two Beaver layups after a Brownie miss made it 55-47 with under a minute to go. Another Agawam turnover led to a Putnam point on the subsequent foul. A Beaver deuce off the offensive boards, plus another made foul shot, put the Brownies away for good with 29 seconds to play. The final again, 61-50. It was a non-league contest. Agawam is 0-1 on the young season.

"We made too many turnovers down the stretch. That about sums it up," Grumoli said. "But we did play hard and tough."

INDIVIDUAL STATS: DiVirgilio (23 points, 7-17 fgs, 2-3's, 7-10 fts, 6 rebs, 3 off); Strole (12 points, 6-14 fgs, 0-1 ft, 6 rebs, 3 off); Albano (6 points, 2-5 fgs, 2-6 fts, 8 rebs, 2 off); Federico (5 points, 1-4 fgs, 3-4 fts, 2 rebs); Pedraza (4 points, 2-14, 6 rebs); Bodurtha (1 off reb); and Conte (0-2 fgs, 3 rebs, 1 off).

TEAM: Field Goals (18-57, 31%, 2-3's); Free Throws (12-21, 57%); Rebounds (31, 10 off); Turnovers (16, points given off turnovers - 4).

OPPONENT: Field Goals (18-43, 41%, 3-3's); Free Throws (10-17, 58%); Rebounds (33, 9 off); Turnovers (12, points off turnovers - 6).

In junior varsity action, the young Brownies lost, 56-35.

The high scorer for AHS was Adam Ellsworth with 10 points.

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Winter Season Could Be Huge For AHS Hockey

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The Agawam High School hockey team will go into their 1988-1999 season with one very good thing going for it — experience. The 1997-1998 Fay Division co-champions (13-8) lost only three seniors. The kids coming back all got extensive ice-time last season, and that bodes well this time around.

Hockey teams are usually built from the goal out. They did lose star goalie Chris Hearn to graduation. He had a record of 11-5 and a 2.3 goals allowed average.

But Coach Fran Pycko, now in his seventh season, currently has nothing but good problems dealing with that position.

"We have three kids fighting for that job: senior Mike Schmidt, junior Derek Mercadante, and junior Ben Kashmanian. All have been playing great in practice; so well, as a matter of fact, that we still don't know who will start in our season opener Thursday (December 17th - presstime) against Minnechaug."

Whoever is in goal, they'll have two talented defensive lines in front of them. Pencilled in on line one will be veteran senior Josh Sprague, who Pycko calls a "natural defenseman," and talented freshman Jason Callahan.

The Second Duo...

The second duo will be Adam Sprague, a sophomore and Josh's brother. He'll be teamed with Brian Gilhooly, a veteran junior. If there is a problem on defense, it might be finding an enforcer to replace graduated Austin Kimball. He was big, tough, and led the team in penalty minutes. You didn't mess with a Brownie player of his tenure without having Kimball pay you a visit by means of a thunderous body check.

The coach will start two lines and spot a third. Junior Jason Malanson, junior Brian Pagella, and senior Andy Radwanski will make up the first line. All are veterans, all can skate, all can score, and all will be up there with the top players in the area.

There's not much difference between them and line number two, staffed by junior Dave Gusek, sophomore Tony LeClair, and senior Tony Kosinski. They are also veterans. The third line will be made up on game day.

This is a talented team. But the coach does have one problem. "We don't have a lot of depth, which could hurt us if we don't play smart hockey. Some teams have three full lines and spot a fourth. That keeps them fresh when the third period comes around."

"Our kids play hard and fast for an entire game, but in the third period, sometimes the tank gets a little empty. We'll try and sell them on using their energy wisely," Pycko said.

High school sports is a delicate mix - grades have to be maintained, kids have to stay out of trouble, and (especially in an emotional, high-speed game like hockey) fights must be avoided or you're going to sit.

"If we can stay healthy, stay out of trouble, and the grades are okay, we'll be okay," Pycko observed.

He also noted with some pride that in the past two years, they did not lose a kid to academic or discipline problems. "Both years we won the division," the coach smiled.

Parks & Rec. Dept. To Sponsor Youth Lacrosse In The Spring

The Agawam Parks and Recreation Department will sponsor a youth lacrosse program again this spring. Coaches Bob Young, Nick St. George, Kevin Quinn, and others will teach the fundamentals of the game, including stick skills, rules of the game, offensive and defensive concepts and strategies, full field concepts, and team play.

Any youth in grades five through eight is invited to participate. The program will be held Monday through Thursday evenings at the Junior High School football field from 5:30-7:00 p.m., beginning mid-April and running through early June. Cost is \$45.

Registration is now being accepted at the Agawam Recreation Office, Monday - Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For more information, call the Recreation Office at 821-0514 or Bob Young at 786-8995.

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Looking For Springfield SLAMM Tix? Check Out These Area Businesses

Tickets for all the Springfield SLAMM games are available at a variety of locations in Western Massachusetts, including Jonathan's Sports World, Route 9, Hadley; Westfield Sport Goods on Route 20 in Westfield; Lally's Pipe & Book on Elm Street in West Springfield; Fenton's Sports in Springfield and Amherst; and Western Village Ski and

Sports at 32 Main Street in Northampton.

All of the SLAMM's home games will be played at Springfield College's Blake Arena.

Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$4 for students under 21, seniors, and children. To charge tickets on the Amex, MasterCard, VISA, or Discover card, call 413-746-BALL (2255).



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Baywest Warriors Peewee C Team Begin Their Season

The Baywest Warriors peewee C team started out with their first game against WTM. Baywest came out strong with a goal from Josh Edwards, assisted by Mat Footit, with one minute into the game. Defensemen Aaron D'Amario and Matt Woodward kept WTM from scoring. Tony Boido had a strong first period with plenty of shots, only to have WTM tie the game up 1-1.

The second period was pretty even, only to have Ryan Harlow score the second goal of the game (with another assist by Mat Footit), giving the Warriors the lead. Defenseman Anthony Barker kept WTM from getting past him with plenty of checking.

WTM came back with another goal to have a 2-2 tie in the third period. After defenseman John Duval kept Baywest on their toes, too many shots attempted gave WTM a 7-2 victory over the Warriors.

The Warriors' second game started out with Pittsfield. The Warriors trailed 4-0 after the second period.

Forwards Mike Brouillette and Nick Pandolfi kept the offense strong to have the Warriors get their first goal of the game by Ryan Harlow. Mike Dunphy and Jake Labelle held the offense to take some shots.

Tim O'Brien came out strong with some nice passes for the forwards. Goalie Tony Boido had about 30 shots on goal within two periods with help from Aaron D'Amario and Matt Woodward on defense, but Pittsfield was just too strong and had the victory of 9-1 over the Warriors.

The Baywest Warriors' third game was against Holy Name II. The first period was pretty even by both teams. To help out, Jake Labelle and Tim O'Brien had some nice shots on the goal.

Defense was strong for goalie Tony Boido, who had some outstanding saves for himself. Matt Woodward and Mat Footit did their job to keep the opponents away, but only to have Holy Name II score the first goal of the game. But that didn't stop the Warriors, as Mike Dunphy and Nick Pandolfi had some nice passing drills to give Ryan Harlow the first goal of the game.

Josh Edwards came back with a nice breakaway to have the Warriors up 2-1 going into the third. Aaron D'Amario and John Duval had some good chances to break away, but Holy Name was too strong and came back to tie the game, 2-2. With minutes left into the third period, the defense was forceful for the Warriors, with Anthony Barker and Mike Brouillette keeping Holy Name away from our net.

With 45 seconds left, Anthony Barker made a shot on goal, but it was rejected by Holy Name's goalie. Ryan Harlow was in the right place at the right time with 30 seconds left to score the winning rebound goal for the Warriors with a 3-2 lead.

With 9.3 seconds left, Holy Name was on a breakaway, but goalie Tony Boido made a one-on-one save with 2.3 seconds left to give the Warriors their first win of the season.

Profile - Dave Federico...

AHS Point Guard Dave Federico Is A Guy For All Seasons

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Basketball point guard Dave Federico participates in three sports (soccer, basketball, and baseball) at Agawam High School. Recently, the senior took some time out to talk about himself and his days at Agawam High School.

Dave is 17 years-old. He'll turn 18 on February 18th. He's six feet tall and weighs 150 pounds. He has spent all four years of his secondary education at AHS.

His courses this semester include calculus, physics, AP accounting, and English. Dave is the treasurer of the school's elite National Honor Society, and he's also a member of the Math Club.

His favorite course is physics because he finds it interesting. Arthur Gage is his top teacher. Right now, he has no plans for college.

He played soccer this past fall, where he was a captain. He averaged six points a game on the basketball floor last year, and is a pitcher/short-stop on the baseball team. Baseball is his favorite sport. "I just love the game," he said.

His most memorable schoolboy sports moment came in his junior year on the soccer field. "It was a game against Amherst. I scored two goals in a 4-1 win," he said.

The 1998 soccer season was a disappointment for Dave because AHS didn't make the tournament. "But it was still a good time, anyway," he smiled.

As for AHS basketball, the team opened with a loss to Putnam Vocational on Tuesday night. But Dave is adamant that, "We'll be better this year and I think we even have an outside chance to make the tournament."

Dave's favorite food is pasta.

Blue is his color of choice.

If he could tool around town in any car, it would be a 1998 Cobra Mustang.

His favorite athlete is Detroit Piston forward Grant Hill.

He likes to hang out with his friends, wherever they might be.

Dave likes comfortable clothes — jeans and t-shirts. He shops for them at the American Eagle store up at the Holyoke Mall.

He likes hip hop and rhythm and blues.

His favorite flick is "Friday," starring Chris Tucker and Ice Cube.



DAVE FEDERICO

Susan is his mom, Paul is his dad. He has three younger brothers, 15 year-old twins Corey and Mike (who are both sophomores at the High School), and 12 year-old Casey (who's at the Junior High).

Dave's days at AHS are rapidly coming to a close. How would he like to be remembered? "I think it would be as someone who was casual and normal," he answered.

Basketball Coach Gary Grumoli had this to say about Dave: "He is a very good kid, a very hard worker, and he's a leader."

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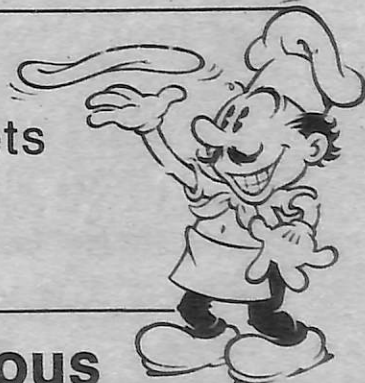
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Agawam Piranhas Fall To Team From Longmeadow

The Agawam Piranhas swim team lost against the Longmeadow team by a score of 315-505 on December 4th at the Longmeadow High School. The results included:

Girls 8 & under:

Krystinia Albano, second in 100-yard individual medley.

The team of Kathryn Malone, Krystinia Albano, Taryn Dooley, and Jennifer Golbach placed third in 100-yard freestyle relay.

Taryn Dooley, first in 25-yard butterfly; Stephanie Scavotta, first in 50-yard freestyle; Jennifer Golbach, third in 25-yard backstroke; and Kathryn Malone, third in 25-yard breaststroke.

Boys 8 & under:

The team of David Dominik, Nathan Fraga, Andrew Ardolino, and Antonne Mathes placed second in 100-yard freestyle relay.

David Dominik, second, and Nathan Fraga, third in 50-yard freestyle; Antonne Mathes, second, and David Dominik, third in 25-yard backstroke; and Andrew Ardolino, second in 25-yard breaststroke.

Girls 9-10:

The team of Brittany Gutowski, Tammy Gorman, Julie Gorman, and Allison Nyman placed first in the 200-yard medley relay; and the team of Angela Virella, Caitlin Hurley, Jennifer Bouley, and Tara Walker placed third.

Johannah Kos, first, and Tammy Gorman, second in 100-yard individual medley.

The team of Julie Gorman, Brittany Gutowski, Jonathan Kos, and Tammy Gorman placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay; and the team of Meghan Henry, Angela Virella, Katelyn Iacolo, and Caitlin Hurley placed third.

Angela Virella, first in 50-yard freestyle; Julie Gorman, first, and Allison Nyman, third in 50-yard butterfly; Johannah Kos, first, and Katelyn Iacolo, third in 100-yard freestyle; Brittany Gutowski, second, and Allison Nyman, third in 50-yard backstroke; and Caitlin Hurley, second in 50-yard breaststroke.

Boys 9-10:

Anthony Ardolino, second in 100-yard individual medley; Adam Deliefde, third in 50-yard freestyle and second in 100-yard freestyle; and Anthony Ardolino, first in 50-yard breaststroke.

Girls 11-12:

The team of Meredith Golbach, Jillian Kos, Katie Gorman, and Jennifer Clark placed second in the 200-yard medley relay.

Jessica Lalli, first in 200-yard individual medley; Abriana Spagnoli, third in 200-yard freestyle; Angela Vinton, first, and Jennifer Clark, third in 50-yard freestyle; Jessica Lalli, first in 50-yard butterfly; Katie Gorman, second in 100-yard freestyle; Meredith Golbach, second in 50-yard backstroke; and Jillian Kos, first in 50-yard breaststroke.

Boys 11-12:

The team of Connor Dooley, Kyle Turcotte, Jeffrey Lagasse and Erik Deliefde places second in the 200-yard medley relay.

Jeffrey Lagasse, first in 200-yard individual medley; Erik Deliefde, second in 200-yard freestyle; Matthew Gendron, first, and Kyle Turcotte, third in 50-yard freestyle; Connor Dooley, second in 50-yard butterfly; Matthew Gendron, first in 100-yard freestyle; and Connor Dooley, third in 50-yard backstroke.

Girls 13-14:

Brittany Theriaque, third in 50-yard freestyle; Allison Morris, third in 100-yard butterfly; Brittany Theriaque, first in 100-yard backstroke; and Allison Morris, first in 100-yard breaststroke.

The team of Allison Morris, Laura Zerra, Daveen Macsata, and Brittany Theriaque placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Boys 13-14:

The team of Michael Lalli, Kyle Sullivan, Daniel Adamski, and Paul Lagasse placed second in the 200-yard medley relay; and the team of Jason St. George, David Torrey, Thomas Gorman, and Stevan Iacolo placed third.

Michael Lalli, second in 200-yard individual medley; Daniel Adamski, first, and Jason St. George, third in 200-yard freestyle; Stevan Iacolo, third in 50-yard freestyle; Kyle Sullivan, second in 100-yard butterfly; Stevan Iacolo, second in 100-yard freestyle; David Torrey, third in 100-yard backstroke; and Thomas Gorman, third in 100-yard breaststroke.

The team of Paul Lagasse, Daniel Adamski, Kyle Sullivan, and Michael Lalli placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay; and the team of Thomas Gorman, Jason St. George, Wayne Mitchell, and David Torrey placed second.

Girls 15-18:

Kaitlin Morris, first in 50-yard freestyle and first in 100-yard backstroke.

Boys 15-18:

Nathan Adamski, first in 200-yard freestyle and first in 100-yard backstroke.

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Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

Deer Harvest May Not Meet Predictions...

The Massachusetts deer harvest during shotgun season may not meet expected goals this year. A combination of factors may have reduced the count. While all check stations have not reported in, it seems that hunter success was running short of previous years.

The unseasonably warm temperatures and lack of hunting pressure combined to give the early appearance of a poor harvest this year.

OPEN WATER FISHING COMES TO A NEAR STANDSTILL

It was with many fond memories and a heavy heart that I finally conceded to the weather and winterized the boats for the season. While on the subject of boats, don't forget to run the motor and inject the fogging oil into the intake. It only takes a few minutes and can save hundreds of dollars down the road.

When fogging the engine for storage, make

sure that you have the motor connected to the garden hose with a pair of outboard "ear muffs" to insure an adequate water flow to the engine. Even a few scant seconds of the engine running without water, can damage the water pump and cause severe damage later on.

This is also a good time to change the lower unit oil and inspect the magnetic plug for signs of metal shards. If the magnetic tip is loaded with metal fragments, it's time to pull the lower unit and inspect the gears for damage.

The old gearcase oil should still be dark in color. If you notice the old oil is milky white in color, it has been mixed with water and is a sure sign that water is leaking into the gear case. That is a problem that will ruin a lower unit in short order.

Your trusty fish finder should also be removed from the boat and the LCD part of the unit should be stored inside. Prolonged exposure to extreme cold can sometimes damage the display.

This is also a good time to do your annual tackle maintenance. Reels should be disassembled and cleaned. After cleaning, use the recommended lube and get them in shape for the spring. If you are going to fish in very cold weather, you may wish to go to a lightweight reel grease. Heavier lubes will get stiff in cold weather.

Rods that have been used in salt water should be inspected for corrosion around the reel seats. Clean thoroughly and lubricate with a light oil or WD 40.

As winter temperatures finally arrive and ice over the area lakes and ponds, be sure of the ice thickness before you venture out. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday season.

Kent Servis' column, "Outdoors New England," is a regular feature of The AAN and is just one more reason why you turn our pages every week...

* * * * *

American Lung Assoc. Unveils New Ski Privilege Book

The American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts has unveiled its new and improved "Ski Privilege Book" for the 1998-99 ski season, offering free and discounted skiing at over a dozen ski resorts in Western Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. Discounts are also available at eight area ski shops on ski merchandise and ski tune-ups.

For \$39, the holder of the "Ski Privilege Book" can ski one time at each resort either free or at a discount, Monday through Friday. The book includes free pass deals, buy-one-get-one-free deals, and other discounts on ski passes and merchandise.

Participating Western Massachusetts ski areas are: Berkshire East, Blandford, Bousquet, Butter-nut, Catamount, Jiminy Peak, Otis Ridge, and Wachusett Mountain. Participating Connecticut and New Hampshire areas are: Mt. Southington, Powder Ridge, Mohawk Mountain, Woodbury, Cedar Brook, and Black Mountain Ski Area.

Discounts on merchandise and tune-ups are available in Western Massachusetts at the Colorado Ski Outlet, Competitive Edge, Wildwater Outfitters, and the Ski-In. Other discounts are available at Connecticut shops as well.

One-hundred percent of funds raised through the "Ski Privilege Book" will help the American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts' community education and research programs in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire Counties.

For more information or to order the "Ski Privilege Book," please call the American Lung Association at (413) 737-3506 or 800-LUNG-USA.

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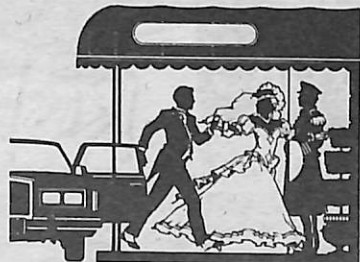
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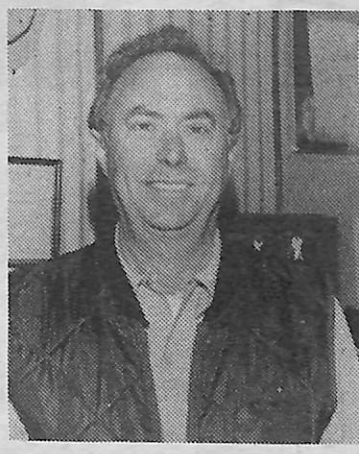
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After Week Number Two...

Boston College Leads G-Town & Fordham In Ever-Competitive Tri-Parish Bowling League

By the end of the evening on Monday, November 30th, Boston College had chalked up an impressive 8-0 record to hold onto first place in the weekly Tri-Parish Bowling League. Although this particular night marked only the second week of rolling in the league's round two, both the competitors and spectators already know that the action is only going to get more and more fierce as the round progresses.

In the meantime, Georgetown and Fordham are presently locked in a tie for second with 6-2 each. St. Mary's and St. Anselm's are next at 4-4 apiece, and Holy Cross, Notre Dame, and St. Louis are at 3-5 in the league as of this writing.

At the bottom end of the bowling spectrum, Catholic University is struggling at 2-6, and St. Michael's is bringing up the rear with its 1-7 record.

On the last day of November, the matches resulted in the following wins and losses: St. Anselm's dominated Catholic University, 3-1; St. Mary's got the better of Holy Cross, 1-3; Fordham sent Notre Dame packing with its 3-1 margin of

victory; Boston College sent St. Louis to the cleaners, thanks to its 4-0 pasting of the competition; and Georgetown was all smiles after its 3-1 clobbering of St. Michael's.

Leading the men on this particular night was DON "Don't Sit On" STITT, who turned in a single string of 136 and a 365 triple string. RON "The Don" MENARD was the runner-up with a 149 single and a 354 triple, followed by SHAWN "Not Connery" O'BRIEN (132, 348), "Richy" RICH SNYDER (133, 342), "Slim" JIM LAMBERT (126, 341), "Jolly" OLLY MULDER (127, 339), and "Scary" LARRY VIENS (134, 324).

"Testy" BETSY CANNON led the ladies on the lanes with her 113 single string and 319 triple string. Other impressive performances were given by CORI "Not Lori" NAPOLITAN (112 single, 318 triple), "The Mighty" DEB POIRIER (109, 317), "Go With The" FLO ROCHFORD (123, 316), BARBARA "Barb Wire" HOWARD (108, 315), MARY "Quite Contrary" THOMAS (115, 303), and JAN "Not The Man" FULLER (97, 283).

How To Shovel Snow Safely This Winter

Will the winter of 1999 be as mild as last year with little snowfall, or will we be digging out from under tons of the heavy white stuff this season?

Only time will tell.

"Even if the snowfall never becomes heavy, it's a good idea to familiarize yourself now with how to protect your back and heart while removing that often beautiful, but heavy white stuff," said Dr. John Santoro, vice chairman, Emergency Medicine, Baystate Medical Center.

"Persons who have coronary artery disease and other illnesses should avoid exposure to cold weather, especially when shoveling," said Santoro.

Santoro said anyone experiencing the symptoms suggestive of a heart attack should be brought to the Emergency Department immediately.

"If the person is having a heart attack, it can be stopped in the Emergency Department with medication. But time is of the essence with the heart muscle and any delay makes the outcome worse," he said.

Santoro noted that signs and symptoms of a heart attack include pressure or pain in the chest, arms, or neck; nausea; lightheadedness; sweating or feeling clammy; or unusual fatigue.

"Any unusual exertion from shoveling snow can cause severe back pain for those with healthy and bad backs," he added.

"Be sure to watch out for signs of frostbite while shoveling in extremely cold weather," Santoro said.

"The first signs of frostbite are a whitening of the skin, numbness, and a tingling feeling," he added.

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Because of Christmas, the deadline for our next issue is Monday, December 21st, at 12:00 noon.

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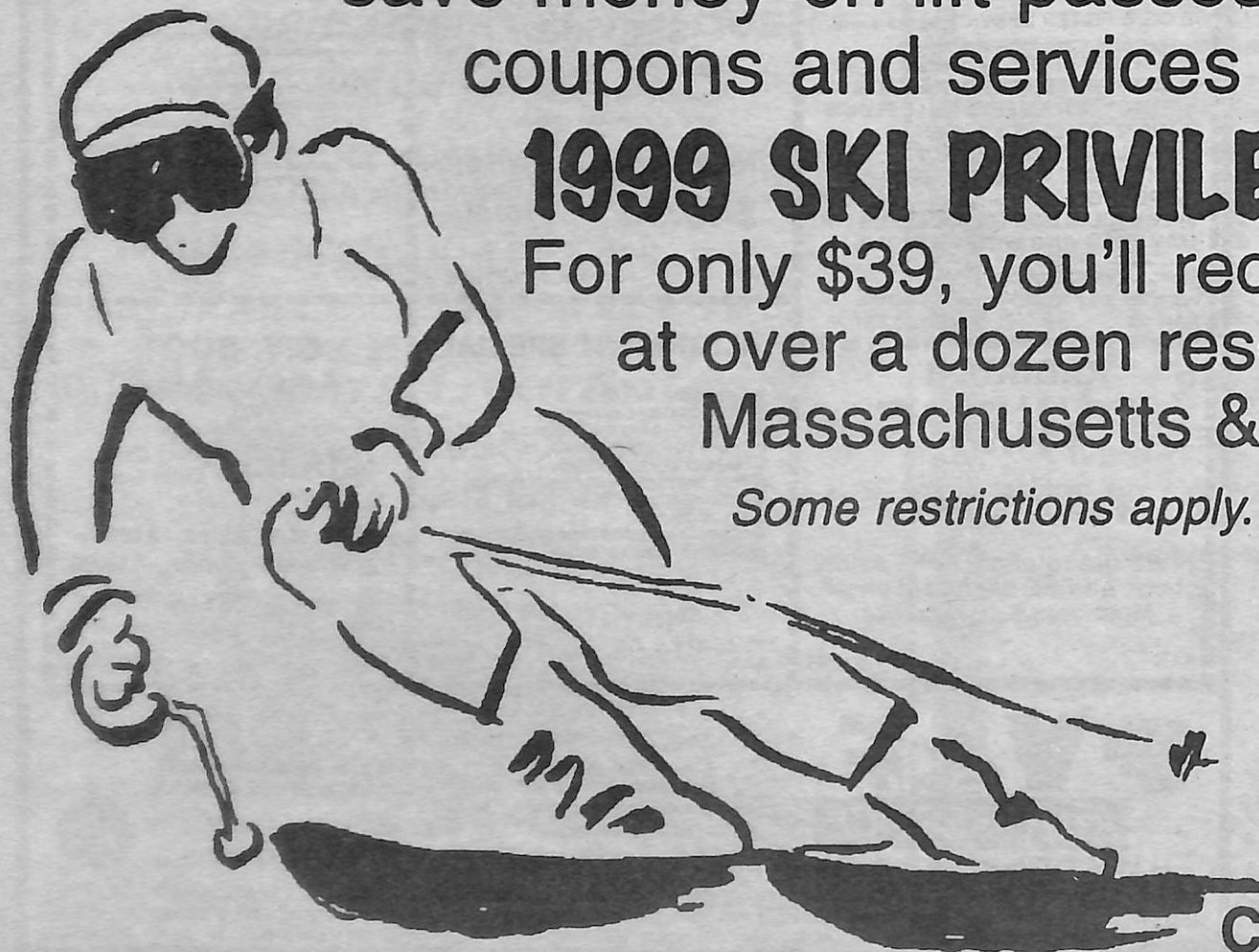
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The "Titanics" Receive Trophies From Agawam Soccer Assoc.

On December 6th, at Agawam Junior High School, a group of girls from Agawam, calling themselves the "Titanics," received trophies for being co-champions of the Under-10 Girls, In Town, Agawam Soccer Association.

The event brought to a close a great season by the Titanics. The Titanics were the only U-10 girls' team to go undefeated through the entire 13-game season, including the Jamboree weekend.

The team's coach, Steve Maloney, said, "I want to thank the parents of these fine players for their support during this past season. Everyone made a great effort to get their players to the practice, where they learned the finer points of the game. The parents of the Titanics came out every weekend to support the team rain or shine.

"I wish to praise the parents for their show of sportsmanship by cheering for any girl who made a good play, no matter what color jersey she was wearing. These parents showed their enthusiasm for the game of soccer and their dedication to their children by the large turnout at our annual Parents vs Kids game. I thank these parents for not letting a record-keeping issue overtake the fact that this is the children's league, a league set up for fun, exercise, and the opportunity to teach good sportsmanship."

Maloney continued, "Thanks to my assistant, Mr. Farmer, who always kept the girls focused and had nothing but praise and encouragement for the girls. Also, thanks to some of the other dads who helped during the season: Mr. Litchfield, Mr. Hawkes, and Mr. Rollins.

"Finally, thank you and congratulations to the Titanics:

"**Caitlyn Davis** — an expert at cutting down the angle in goal. Preserved the Titanics' undefeated record with a big game in goal on September 18th vs the Maroon Team. Always had helpful tips during the halftime break.

"**Jennifer Farmer** — scored her first-ever goal on October 3rd helping the team to a strong 4-1 win. Played flawless goal in a Jamboree game.

"**Alexandra Hawkes** — her first year playing. Allie assisted on three goals in our game on October 17th to propel the Titanics to a 5-2 victory.

"**Laura Lyons** — first year playing, couldn't tell! Excellent passing skills. Scored what proved to be the winning goal on October 4th vs the Red Team.

"**Samantha Lisee** — solid on defense. Scored a hat trick on October 17th, making the difference in a 5-2 win.

"**Jamie Litchfield** — played the second half of the season with a broken arm! Scored twice near the end of the game on October 25th to assure a 2-2 tie with the Black Shadows.

"**Lauren Maloney** — scored an unassisted goal on October 3rd for the game winner. A rock on defense.



THE U10 TITANICS - back row, from left - Coach Steve Maloney and Assistant Coach Kevin Farmer. Middle row - Caitlyn Davis, Laura Lyons, Samantha Lisee, Jamie Littlefield, and Jennifer Farmer. Front row - Sara Wood, Lauren Maloney, Alexandra Hawkes, Hannah Rollins, and Danielle Stelma. Missing: Julie-Ann Montalvo.

"**Julie-Ann Montalvo** — scored the winning goal in game 12 on November 7th to preserve the Titanics' undefeated season.

"**Hannah Rollins** — a hat trick in game nine on October 24th assured a 4-0 victory. 'Demanded' to be put on defense during game seven on October 17th, shutting down the opponent for the rest of the day.

"**Danielle Stelma** — fired in two goals during a 6-1 victory on October 4th. Was steady in goal during the season.

"**Sara Wood** — good passing skills around the goal. Showed up late for a game on October 18th

but just in time to sub in for a tired forward, and she immediately scored our fourth goal of the game."

Maloney remarked, "More than the goals and the wins, the girls just liked to play the game. They showed sportsmanship and maturity beyond their nine or 10 years of age.

"You had to see them play to really appreciate their skills. Probably their success was rooted in the fact they all got along very well, always encouraging each other. They are great kids.

"I thank them for letting me be part of their season. GO TITANICS!!!!!" concluded Maloney.

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Twisters	5 0 0 10
Black Shadow	3 2 0 6
Titanics	2 3 0 4
Bluejays	0 5 0 0

U-10 BOYS (DIV. 1)	W L T P
Ball Hogs 1	6 0 0 12
Holyoke	4 2 0 8
Ball Hogs 2	3 3 0 6
West Side	2 4 0 4
Bandits	0 6 0 0

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Flames	6 0 0 12
Falcons	4 1 1 9
Hot Shots	2 3 1 5
Games & Lanes	2 3 0 4
Gold Lightning	1 3 2 4
Predators	0 5 0 0

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS	W L T P
Agawam (Marsili)	4 0 0 8
West Side	1 2 1 3
Red Devils	1 2 1 3
Cosmos	1 3 0 2

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Red Rockets U10 Soccer Champions



THE RED ROCKETS FINISHED the 1998 season last month with 9 wins and two losses. On December 6th, the boys received trophies from the Agawam Soccer Association. Congratulations to the Red Rockets for their outstanding effort and sportsmanship. Their success was highlighted by parental support, helpful coaching, and their willingness to excel. Front row, from left - Shaun Troy, Jeff Simpson, Michael Mead, Ryan Osborne, Charlie Kane. Middle row - James Mackin, Brett Lombardini, Anthony Morassi, Nick Rossi, Matthew Roberts, and Nimish Shah. Coaches include Dan Mackin, Paul Lombardini, Michael Morassi, and Carl Roberts.

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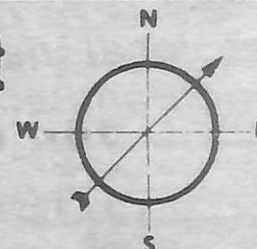
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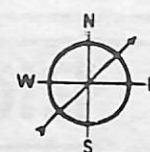
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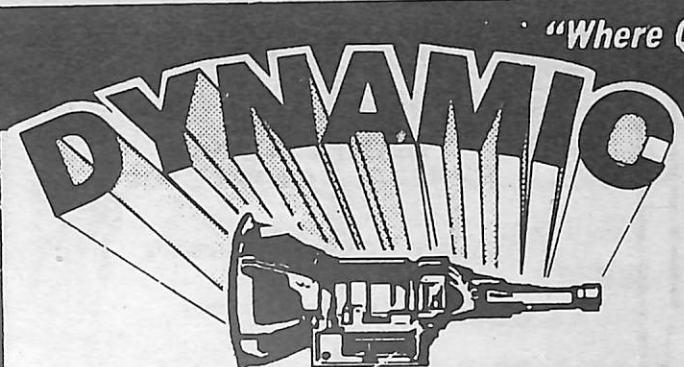
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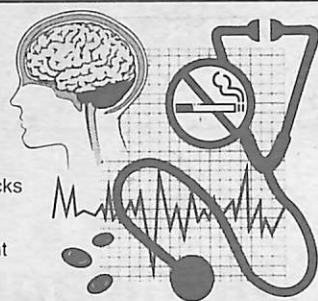
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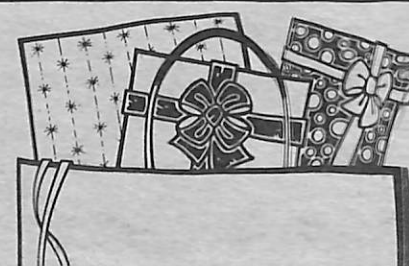
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